

## **My Philosophy**

“Words have the greatest power!” When I was in the 3rd grade, my mother spoke those words to me. She also gave me a journal and said, "If you can't articulate your feelings, write them on paper." As a child, I stuttered until I became a young adult in college. My best friends were journals. They knew my dreams, secrets, and so much more. I played with words by writing and reading a lot of books.

Because of my love for words, I have been teaching 11 years total on a community college level. At Texarkana College, I teach Composition I, Composition II, Developmental Reading and Writing II, Introduction to Mass Communications, Media Writing, News Reporting, Photography, Editing and Layout, Electronic Media, and Introduction to Advertising.

Prior to teaching, my career began in Mass Communications. Upon graduating from high school in Arkansas, I attended Jackson State University in Jackson, Miss., where I obtained a B.A. in English/News Editorial and a B.S. in Mass Communications/Print Journalism. I was the first in my family to receive a college education. This motivated me to obtain a M.A. in English/Creative Writing. During my sophomore year in college, I interned at a weekly newspaper in Jackson. This opportunity opened doors for me. I would later work for the daily newspaper in the capital city, where I served in several positions: copy editor, online content editor, assistant metro editor, and features editor.

My 19 years in Mississippi taught me even more about words. I met civil rights activists who fought for those who otherwise would not be heard, and I studied Southern writers like Eudora Welty, Alice Walker, and William Faulkner, to name a few.

I was born in Georgia, raised in Arkansas, and matured in Mississippi. In the past, students have asked how I overcame stuttering. My response: my mother. She gave me a journal, showed me the power of words, and believed in me.

Lastly, I enjoy hiking and nature trails, making TikTok videos with my daughter, spending time with family, reading, mentoring, and traveling. I look forward to showing you the power of words.