Strategies for Writing Effective Teaching Philosophy Statements

Strategies for Writing an effective Teaching Philosophy Statement:
- Focus on concrete questions
- Make a list of qualities of an effective teacher
- Ponder what you don’t like in a teacher
- Do research to understand the culture of the institution you are pursuing
- Focus on how you will teach vs. what you have taught
- Be specific; quantify your statements with examples
- Ground your teaching philosophy in the principles of the discipline of your field

Why:
- Explain your role and purpose in wanting to educate
- What shapes that desire?

Whom You Teach:
- Define your audience of learners
- Discuss your commitment to diversity in learning

What:
- List the course and subjects you accomplished to teach
- What are the characteristics of effective learning that you employ in the classroom
  - Instructional strategies
  - Goals, outcomes and assessment
  - Individual student learning

How:
- Explain ways to engage students intellectually in the classroom
- How can you tell students are learning?
- How do your values, beliefs and attitude relate to learning in the classroom?

Additional Things to Consider and Apply:
- How do you learn? (Visual, Kinesthetic, Oratory)
- What is your leadership style?
- What major educational philosophy do you lend to?
  - Perennial: “the classic structure of science, math and literature as dominant learning”
  - Essential: “cultural literacy and a broad foundation is necessary to be effective in life”
  - Progressive: “educate the individual and whole student relating real-life problems to learning”
  - Social: “education is valuable when students learn how they can improve society”
The Teaching Portfolio

A Teaching Philosophy is requested when pursuing teaching positions, seeking tenure and/or as part of a Teaching Portfolio. It reflects your philosophy of teaching, commitment to diversity and understanding of the institutions culture, which is of particular importance for community college systems.

Types of Portfolios:
- Course Portfolio: specific to a course
- Professional Portfolio: for promotion and tenure
- Teaching Portfolio: documents aspects of a person’s teaching ability

Two (2) types of evaluation a Teaching Portfolio is typically used for:
- Summative Evaluation: Used to judge the outcome of one’s work and to demonstrate the quality of a person’s work for hiring, promotions or in a course of study.
- Formative Evaluation: A method to identify areas to be improved and suggest possible ways to improve for professional development.

Characteristics of an Effective Portfolio:
- Structured
  - Organized, complete and creative
- Representative
  - Comprehensive in scope portraying a cross-section of work in teaching
- Selective
  - Limited to the appropriateness of documenting one’s work; Not a restating of the CV.
  - Insure that each piece of evidence has an accompanying context and explanation.

Elements of an Effective Portfolio:
1. Teaching Philosophy
2. Documentation of Teaching
   a. List of courses instructed
   b. Syllabi
   c. Course Descriptions (objectives, outcomes, assessment method)
   d. Sample Assignments, Exams, Quizzes, Videotaped Lectures
3. Teaching Effectiveness
   a. Evaluations (Chair, Student, Peer Reviews, etc.)
   b. Student competencies post instruction (exam scores, papers, written feedback)
4. Professional Development
   a. Memberships, Representation in Organizations
   b. Conferences, workshops, CEU’s
5. Professional Contributions to the Profession/Institution
   a. Publishing: articles, journals, textbooks
   b. Faculty committee, curriculum development
6. Honors, Awards and Recognitions
Teaching Portfolio Examples

Ohio State University: University Center for the Advancement of Teaching: Developing a Teaching Portfolio: Examples of Teaching Portfolio Table of Contents [http://ucat.osu.edu/portfolio/TableOfContents.html](http://ucat.osu.edu/portfolio/TableOfContents.html)


Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey: Center for Teaching Advancement & Assessment Research [http://taproject.rutgers.edu/services_tips/teach_portfolio.pdf](http://taproject.rutgers.edu/services_tips/teach_portfolio.pdf)
Online Bibliography Post-Secondary Institutions: Teaching Philosophy Statements and Developing Portfolios

Duquesne University: Center for Teaching Excellence: Teaching Philosophy
http://www.duq.edu/cte/academic-careers/teaching-philosophy.cfm

Iowa State University: Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching
http://www.celt.iastate.edu/teaching/philosophy.html

Ohio State University: University Center for the Advancement of Teaching: Developing a Philosophy of Teaching Statement.
http://ucat.osu.edu/teaching_portfolio/philosophy/philosophy2.html

Ohio State University: Van Note Chism, Nancy. "Writing a Philosophy of Teaching Statement."
http://ftad.osu.edu/portfolio/philosophy/Philosophy.html.

Oregon State University: School of Education How To: Write an Educational Philosophy Statement
http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/ed416/suggestions.html

Sample Education Philosophy Statements on Education
http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/ed416/sample.html

Princeton University; The McGraw Center for Teaching & Learning
http://www.princeton.edu/mcgraw/library/for-grad-students/teaching-statement/

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey: Center for Teaching Advancement & Assessment Research
http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/teaching/portfolios.html

The University of Georgia: The Center for Teaching and Learning: Future Faculty Teaching Philosophy Statements.
http://www.ctl.uga.edu/teach_asst/ta_mentors/philosophy/index.html

The University of Michigan: Center for Research on Learning and Teaching
http://www.crlt.umich.edu/tstrategies/tstpts.php

The University of Minnesota: Center for Teaching and Learning: Writing Your Teaching Philosophy: A Step-by-Step Approach.
http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/tutorials/philosophy/index.html

Vanderbilt University: Center for Teaching: Teaching Portfolios
http://cft.vanderbilt.edu/teaching-guides/reflecting/teaching-portfolios/

Washington University, St. Louis
http://teachingcenter.wustl.edu/writing-teaching-philosophy-statement

Yale University: McDougal Graduate Teaching Center: Sample Teaching Philosophies by Discipline (2006).
http://www.yale.edu/graduateschool/teaching/forms/Sample%20Teaching%20Statements%20(AL).pdf
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http://www.celt.iastate.edu/teaching/philosophy.html


http://www.crlt.umich.edu/publinks/CRLT_no23.pdf


http://chronicle.com/article/Writing-SamplesTeaching/125726/.