

COMPONENTS OF A TEACHING PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

Components Include:

- The theoretical underpinnings of your belief system and how your belief system affects decisions such as selection of materials, teaching strategies, and classroom management.
- A description of what you do in the classroom, why doing things that way benefits your students, and how you know when teaching strategies are working well.
- You (and your student's) roles and responsibilities.
- When do you use it in the classroom and how it enhances learning?
- Classroom dynamics, rapport, and class atmosphere.
- Methods of assessment of student learning and your teaching.
- Your flexibility in working within the needs and constraints of the institution.
- Balancing teacher-as-dictator and teacher-as-facilitator: When are you and when are you *not* open to negotiation? What are your views on discipline?
- Your teaching style, such as coaching, leading, guiding, telling, showing, mentoring, and modeling.
- Teacher awareness, reflection, and development.
- Your collaborative efforts- sharing and developing ideas with other teachers.

Brainstorming the Philosophy of a Teaching Statement:

- If I were to ask your students about your teaching, what would they say? (If you were one of your students, what would you say about your teaching?)
- Think of an activity you have used that you feel was both successful and a good reflection of you as the kind of teacher you want to be. What was it about the activity, and the way you implemented it, that made it a good activity?
- How do you establish rapport in your classes?
- Think of an activity that bombed in the classroom. Why do you think it didn't work? How would you change it and/or the way you presented it?
- How do you motivate students? Is there a difference in how you motivate different students?
- How do you feel about grading? How do you go about deciding what grades to give to students?
- What do you think makes an excellent teacher?
- What is something you've learned in your study that you would like to try to apply to your teaching?
- How do you feel teachers can get better at what they do?
- What are you interested in researching? How does this relate to your teaching?

SOURCE:

<http://cft.uiowa.edu/files/cft.uiowa.edu/files/Teaching%20Portfolios%20Steps%20in%20Preparation.pdf>