

Teaching Philosophy Statements | Quick Facts Guide

Purpose of a Teaching Philosophy

A teaching philosophy is an opportunity to articulate your personal approach and belief system about teaching and learning. The statement may include a description of evidence-based practices, pedagogies, or teaching and learning that you employ to facilitate student success. This document should reflect your purposeful practices and clearly communicate your investment in teaching.

Formatting Your Teaching Philosophy

Remember, there is no specific right way, but the formatting tips below are reflective of what is typically observed.

- Page Length: Typically, 1-2 pages (double-spaced)
- Font: Professional legible fonts like 12 pt, Times New Roman font is acceptable.
- Tone: Confident, authentic, and professional
- Discipline specific pedagogies are encouraged but discipline specific, technical terms may not be as relevant. Emphasis is placed on teaching strategies vs. teaching content.

Reflection Questions to Ask Yourself Before You Draft

- By the end of your course, what do you hope your students learn? Technical skills? Transferable skills?
- Is there a theme regarding how you facilitate the development of those skills? Are there specific strategies, activities, projects, etc. that you scaffold so students can obtain those skills?
- How do these strategies impact student learning? How is this strategy more impactful than other teaching and learning methods?
- Do you utilize specific teaching pedagogy, relevant to your discipline, that potential employers would find relevant to your potential new role (e.g., using Reacting to the Past Pedagogy in History Course, base-based learning in political science courses, general active learning practices, etc.)?

Organization Your First Draft

- *Introduction Paragraph*
 - Introduce your belief of or your goal for teaching authentically
- *Body Paragraphs (1 per theme)*
 - Introduce your teaching strategy/approach/pedagogy
 - Provide concrete examples (not just theoretical explanations), justification, and articulate how learning was impacted.
- *Conclusion Paragraph*
 - Summarize/reiterate your belief about teaching and the impact you have made and hope to continue to make.
 - Consider your belief about the future of teaching and your adaptability to meet the needs of students (i.e., adjusting to student body and field as they evolve).

Other Considerations:

- Have drafts reviewed by major professor/primary investigator, peers, and professionals.
- Go to the [Writing Center](#) for editing support.