

Teaching Philosophy

Your philosophy of teaching statement serves as an opportunity to record your thoughts and views of what teaching is and how you perceive yourself as a teacher. You should formalize this statement using course discussions and readings as well as observations and experiences you have had with children in and out of the classroom setting.

The teaching philosophy results from refining your thoughts through writing and reflecting on your experiences, as well as discussing them with your peers, professors, and teaching colleagues. It should be 1-2 pages long. Your teaching philosophy, in its final version, will be submitted to your student teaching school as a part of the placement process. It will become a part of your professional portfolio, and it may be used as part of job applications.

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Here are some questions to ponder (Note: These are questions to think about, but not all need to be answered in the philosophy.):

- Why is it important to you to be a teacher of [subject]? What ideal or experiences have led you to this choice of profession?
- How has your idea of teaching changed?
- What do you consider most important in teaching? Are there specific experiences in your student teaching placements that have influenced your thinking about this? (Use your experiences to exemplify the points you make in your philosophy.)
- What engages students?
- What kind of relationship do you want to establish with your students?
- How does classroom atmosphere/environment relate to learning?
- How does assessment/standards/theory fit in with planning curriculum and instruction?