

Crafting a Teaching Philosophy Statement

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- Review teaching and learning beliefs
- Examine what you have to offer
- Examine teaching strategies in your discipline
- Begin developing a teaching statement

What is a Teaching Philosophy Statement?

- Your beliefs about learning
- Your beliefs about teaching
- Illustrates where you see students and yourself in the process
- Content and process of learning – relationship between the two

What is Learning?

- Change
- Making a difference
- Empowering students
- Transformation
- Feedback

Learning Experiences

1. Think of something you are good at. What did you do to become good at it? What helped you learn?
2. Think of something about yourself that you feel good about, something during your tertiary education. How can you tell? What's your evidence?

Learning Experiences

1. Think of something you are not good at, perhaps as a result of a bad learning experience. What went wrong, and why?
2. Think of something that you did learn successfully, but at the time you didn't want to learn it. What kept you going so that you did success in learning it?

Learners in Your Discipline

- What characteristics do students tend to have in your discipline?
- How do students learn in your discipline? Are there different modes?
- What skills will students need to develop in the discipline, and for employment? What skills have you developed?

Teacher – Student Relationship

- What goals will you have for students?
- What expectations will you have of them and of yourself?
- Where do you see the importance of enthusiasm for your subject and how this might be used to motivate students?
- What strengths will you bring?

Working with Students

- What do you enjoy doing?
- How will you engage students in learning?
- How might you engage students at differing levels – 100 level, 300, 700, Masters ...?
- What qualities will you foster in a learning environment?

Working with Students

- What about content versus student workload?
- What skills will be information?
- How will you know students are learning?
- What evaluation will you carry out?

Teaching Strategies in Your Discipline

- What teaching strategies / methods are traditionally used by your discipline?
- Do you value these strategies and why?
- Will you use the same methods? How might you do something different? What might this look like?
- How is content delivered, provided

Teaching and Research

- What is the connection between research and teaching?
- How might you make connections between your research and what you will be teaching?
- How might you demonstrate that you can think more broadly than your PhD research?
- Imagine you are asked to develop a new course, say at 300-700 level? What would it look like?

Preparing Yourself

- Observe teachers you admire lecturing, taking a tutorial
- Talk to lecturers about what teaching is to them
- Ask permission to look at, read through online courses and study materials
- Attend learning and teaching workshops and seminars
- Read about teaching and learning

Writing it!

- Organisation – themes based on values
- Use examples – be specific

“I enjoy lecturing, and I'm good at it. I always make an effort to engage and motivate my students when I lecture.”

(University of Minnesota
<http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/tutorials/philosophy/create/index.html>)

What does this mean? What might you add to explain this? What are you actually doing?

Presentation of teaching Philosophy / Statement

- Be aware of who your audience is
- Use the first person as your ‘voice’ is important – project it
- Use language that anyone can understand

Presentation of teaching Philosophy / Statement

- Be careful of which discipline jargon used
- Target knowledge, skills and attributes to specific jobs – not everything
- Make an application easy to read
- Make links between your values / beliefs and learning and teaching

Teaching Philosophy Statement

- Teaching and learning beliefs
- Examine teaching strategies in your discipline
- Thought about what you have to offer and how you might demonstrate teach
- Begun developing a teaching statement

References

Center for Teaching and Learning (nd). *Writing your teaching philosophy*. University of Minnesota
<http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/tutorials/philosophy/index.html>

Goodyear, G.E. & Allchin, D. (2001). *Statements of teaching philosophy*. University of Texas
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Schönwetter, D.J., Sokal, L., Frisen, M., & Taylor, K.L. (2002). Teaching philosophies reconsidered: A conceptual model for the development and evaluation of teaching philosophy statements. *International Journal for Academic Development*, 7(1), 83-97.

See <http://akoatearora.ac.nz> <http://www.tedi.uq.edu.au/>
<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/>