

## Student Directions for Writing the Teaching Philosophy Statement

Begin this section of your portfolio with a philosophical statement that will give the reader a good idea of who you are and what you value as a professional. The statement should reveal how you think about teaching and help the reader envision how you will teach. In a unified composition of about 1000 words *from your personal perspective*,

1. identify the 2-3 most important purposes of teaching;
2. explain what it means for someone truly to learn something; and
3. give specific *examples* from your teaching experience discussing the most important principles that will guide your actions as a teacher.

Suggestions:

- Introduce your statement with a single image, incident, quotation, or metaphor that encapsulates your philosophy and that can serve to unify your essay.
- While using an appropriate academic style, write in a way that reflects your own voice and personality.
- Emphasize principles that you can refer to elsewhere in the portfolio in discussing examples of your skills, knowledge, and dispositions.
- Include examples from your experience to illustrate and support your ideas.
- Read the rubric before you write your philosophy statement. After you have written your philosophy statement use the rubric to score the draft as if you were an evaluator.

Criteria for evaluating the statements:

1. Statement is logical, elaborated, and internally consistent
2. Illustrative examples are detailed, pertinent, and memorable
3. Writing
  - a. Clear
  - b. Organized
  - c. Unified
  - d. Free from errors of mechanics and usage
  - e. Written in appropriate academic style
  - f. Suggests author's voice

## Teaching Philosophy Statement Scoring Rubric

Criterion	Undocumented 0 Unacceptable	Minimal 1 Unacceptable	Basic 2 Acceptable	Proficient 3 Acceptable	Advanced 4 Acceptable	Score
<b>Idea Development</b>	The statement is incoherent or extremely brief or contains major logical inconsistencies	Statement expresses several ideas about teaching that are ambiguous or not connected	Statement meets one of the following criteria: logical, elaborated, consistent	Statement meets two of the following criteria: logical, elaborated, consistent.	Statement is logical, elaborated, and internally consistent	<b>Score:</b> _____
<b>Illustrative Examples</b>	No illustrative examples are included	The statement includes at least one example, but the relationship to teaching experience or plans is unclear	Examples from the writer's experience show only one of ○ detail ○ clear relevance, ○ vividness or memorability	Examples from the writer's experience or plans are ○ detailed and pertinent, ○ but not memorable	Illustrative examples from the writer's experience or plans are detailed, pertinent, and memorable	<b>Score:</b> _____
<b>Quality of Writing</b>	The statement is very difficult to read because of its style, usage, mechanics, or organization	Two of the following apply: ○ Organized, ○ Unified, ○ Free from errors of mechanics and usage, ○ Appropriate academic style, ○ Strongly suggestive of voice	Three of the following apply: ○ Organized, ○ Unified, ○ Free from errors of mechanics and usage, ○ Appropriate academic style, ○ Strongly suggestive of voice	Four of the following apply: ○ Organized, ○ Unified, ○ Free from errors of mechanics and usage, ○ Appropriate academic style, ○ Strongly suggestive of voice	Writing is clear, well organized, unified, free from errors of mechanics and usage, an appropriate academic style, with a strong suggestion of the author's individual voice	<b>Score:</b> _____

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mean:** \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_