

CREATING A TEACHING PHILOSOPHY



GETTING STARTED



- Brainstorm a list or concept map of your teaching activities, including mentoring individual students (in office hours or a lab) as well as teaching in more formal settings. You won't address everything in the statement, but you may be surprised by how much teaching you have done and how things connect.
- Consider answering some of the following questions when developing your teaching philosophy: How do people learn? How do I facilitate learning? What goals do I have for my students? Why do I teach the way I do? What are my goals as a teacher?
- You may change your educational philosophy statement throughout your career. Updating your educational philosophy is important to ensure that it will always reflect your current opinion on education.

STYLE AND CONTENT



- The length of a teaching statement depends on its purpose. A statement intended for colleagues or for prospective employers might be 1 - 3 pages. A statement included in a course syllabus will probably be shorter.
- Write in first person, and consider writing in shorter sentences than you might use for academic research writing. Readers will appreciate an honest, reflective style in which you discuss your evolution and aspirations as well as your successes. In a statement meant for colleagues, develop major ideas with concrete, specific examples.
- For example, if you are making a claim for the importance of interactive learning, briefly describe one or two of your actual assignments or class activities. Consider describing how your teaching style connects to or departs from signature pedagogies in your discipline.

PURPOSE



- A teaching portfolio is a collection of professional materials that demonstrate not only your strengths but your evolution as a teacher and your critical, reflective thinking.
- With a portfolio, you can proactively construct a professional profile. Potential readers include hiring committees, employers, colleagues, scholarship and grant committees, and students.
- A portfolio is a living document that changes over time. A number of professionals are required to keep extensive portfolios for purposes of assessment and review.
- For example, faculty and academic professionals at the University of Wyoming routinely submit extensive portfolios (which are called packets) in which they document excellence in teaching, research, and professional development.
- A Teaching Philosophy is an educator's personal statement detailing their guiding principles about education-related issues as how students learn best, as well as the role of educators in the classroom, school, community, and society.

HELPFUL RESOURCES



- [Writing a Teaching Statement](#)
- [Chism's five components](#)
- [Helpfulprofessor.com](#)
- [ThoughtCo.](#)