Writing A Teaching Statement

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What is a Teaching Statement?

Why write a Teaching Statement?
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“A Teaching Statement is a purposeful and reflective essay about the author’s teaching beliefs and practices.”

- Center for Teaching, Vanderbilt
Why write a Teaching Statement?

“The act of taking time to consider one’s goals, actions, and vision provides an opportunity for development that can be personally and professionally enriching. Reviewing and revising former statements of teaching philosophy can help teachers to reflect on their growth and renew their dedication to the goals and values that they hold.”

- Nancy Chism, “Developing a Philosophy of Teaching Statement”
What makes an effective Teaching Statement?
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“If at all possible, your statement should enable the reader to imagine you in the classroom, teaching. You want to include sufficient information for picturing not only you in the process of teaching, but also your class in the process of learning.”

- Helen G. Grundman, “Writing a Teaching Philosophy Statement”
What makes an effective Teaching Statement?

- Offers evidence for teaching excellence
- Conveys reflectiveness about teaching
- Communicates that teaching is valued
- Student-centered or learning-centered, attuned to different learning styles
- Well written, clear, and readable

O’Neal, Meizlish, Kaplan. “Writing a Statement of Teaching Philosophy for the Academic Job Search.”
What makes an effective Teaching Statement?

- Write clearly and concisely (1-2 pages)
- Use first-person narration
- Be specific rather than abstract
- Avoid jargon and clichés
- Don’t repeat what is on your CV.
- Be yourself: Make it reflective, personal, and unique

- Discuss learning goals, teaching methods, and learner assessment
- Provide specific examples of your teaching practice
- Showcase your strengths and accomplishments

Adapted from Chism, “Developing a philosophy of teaching statement.”
Questions to ask yourself...

- Why do I teach?
- What goals do I have for student learning?
- How do I facilitate student learning in the classroom?
- Why do I teach the way that I do?
- How does my research influence my teaching?
- How do I create an inclusive learning environment?
- How do I teach toward different learning styles?
- How do I create a student-centered learning environment?
- How do my teaching methods contribute to student learning goals?
- How do I know if my student meet the learning goals?
- What evidence do I have for teaching excellence?
- What are my future goals for growth as a teacher?

Adapted from Chism, “Developing a philosophy of teaching statement.”
Resources

Center for Teaching, Vanderbilt University  https://cft.vanderbilt.edu//cft/guides-sub-pages/teaching-statements/

