"If there’s one piece of advice I’d give to someone starting to teach in my area it’s that…"

Teaching Philosophy: Finding Your Why

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Agenda for today:

1. What is a teaching philosophy?
2. Developing your teaching philosophy

What is a teaching philosophy?

- A glimpse of "you" in the classroom
    - Annual Reviews, Promotion & Tenure, Teaching Job Applications
- Reflecting on your long-term goals can be reinvigorating and reorienting
- An opportunity to reconcile what you *do* with what you *believe*
- Useful in identifying opportunities for personal growth

What does a teaching philosophy look like?

- Reflection
- Student-Centered
- Values, attitudes, and beliefs about teaching
- Both general statements and specific examples

- Links to research, service, and experience*
- 1-4 pages*

*These may differ based on situational needs

Should I…

- Cite research to support my philosophy?
  - Genesea Carter: Composition and Rhetoric; Anonymous: Social Work/Political Science
- Include personal anecdotes?
  - Chris Odato: Linguistics; Colin Roust: Musicology; Julia Remsik Larsen: Composition
- State what subjects or classes I'm teaching? (Does my philosophy apply to all my teaching equally or does the emphasis change based on the course?)
  - Amy Ort: Psychology; Craig Spencer: Mathematics
- Talk about things I struggle with or don't do well in the classroom?
  - Anonymous: Microbiology and Immunology; Olivier Delers: Romance Languages and Literatures

Part 2: Developing your teaching philosophy

Adapted from UMN Teaching Philosophy Template
(~1 hr, broken into 3 discussions)

Discussion #1: Aspirations, Goals, & Objectives

- Describe your teaching aspirations, goals, and objectives from a few different perspectives, using specific examples as much as possible:
  - For my students (e.g., create an inclusive and equitable classroom environment, encourage mastery, transmit information, develop critical thinking skills, encourage life-long learning, serve as a mentor, etc.)
  - For myself, the teacher (e.g., how will you use student evaluations to improve your teaching? How will you learn new skills? How will you continue to grow as a teacher?)
  - For my department / discipline (e.g., how does your teaching prepare students for future classes or career experiences? how does your teaching connect with the teaching of your departmental colleagues?)

Discussion #2: Methods & Assessment

- How will you work toward your teaching goals & objectives for your students? (e.g., case studies, team-based learning, active lecturing, simulations, etc.)

- How will you assess student understanding? (e.g., what are your beliefs about grading? What different types of assessment such as papers, tests, projects, homework, etc. will you use? [How] Do you provide flexibility for assessments?)

- How do your teaching methods and assessment practices relate to one another?

Discussion #3: Reflection & Improvement

- How will you reflect on your teaching to improve over time? (e.g., how will you use student evaluations to improve your teaching? How will you learn new skills? How will you continue to grow as a teacher?)

- How would you summarize your teaching philosophy in 4 words?

Share your 4-word teaching philosophy

Your feedback matters,
help us meet your needs.
https://go.unl.edu/teaching-philosophy-eval

Hungry for more ideas? Check out the UMN Resource Website.

Want support? Find the instructional designer available to support you.