Overview

Why develop a statement of teaching philosophy?

Analysis of two teaching statements

Process for writing the teaching statement

Why develop a statement of teaching philosophy?

- To improve your teaching through reflection
- To highlight important aspects of your teaching – framework for the teaching portfolio
- To indicate you are ready for the job market

What do search committees want to see?

- Signs of genuine respect for students
- What your students will do in the classroom
- Research linked to teaching
- Continuing development in teaching
- Ability to develop graduate students in the same way

Which parts of the teaching portfolio are most effective to search committees?

- Teaching statement
- Sample syllabi
- Student evaluations
- Classroom materials & assignments

Analysis of two teaching statements

What was effective about the Murphy and Zuiker statements?

What essential questions did the Murphy and Zuiker statements answer?

What questions remained unanswered? What did you want to know more about?

A Teaching Statement is:
- Personal
- Coherent
- Pragmatic
- Selective
- Developmental

Process for writing the teaching statement

1. Take 5 minutes to write about a key assignment you use in your class to encourage student learning.
2. Then, in groups of 3, tell each other about your assignment. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the assignment as a group.
3. Be prepared to present to the room as a whole.

Process for writing the teaching statement

Your teaching statement should show that:
- You’re enthusiastic about teaching
- You’ve thought about your teaching
- You can apply what you’ve learned
- You have taught successfully
- You continue to reflect on teaching

Exercises for developing a teaching statement:
Duquesne University Center for Teaching Excellence
http://www.cte.duq.edu/resources/factas/eResources/stp.html

Process for writing the teaching statement

What is the role of student and teacher?
What do you do what you do in the classroom?
What do you want students to appreciate about and learn to do in your discipline?
How does your course design help students achieve these goals?
What personal characteristics do you bring to the classroom to enhance the learning experience?
How successful are you in achieving these learning goals?
How will you improve students’ achievement of these learning goals?

Seven common problems with teaching statements
- Is trite and/or uses clichés
- Is too preachy
- Uses too much jargon
- Has no overall theme about you as a teacher to pull together entire document
- Does not connect theory with practice
- Includes too much
- Has no plan for continued improvement