

Philosophy of Teaching

Part I: Written Teaching Philosophy

A philosophy is your or personal vision or statement regarding your teaching. It provides a clear vision of what you believe about teaching and learning, why you believe it to be true and from where your ideas emerged. Your philosophy should be unique.

It is something that will go in both the e-Portfolio and at the beginning of your paper portfolio. Many districts also require you to submit a philosophy as part of the application process. I suggest that you include one with all application materials. In class, we will talk about effective elements of a teaching philosophy and look at examples of various teaching philosophies.

In one (1) page, using 10 or 11 sized Times Roman Numeral (or a similar font), your goal is to develop or revise your overall philosophy of teaching. Although your philosophy does not have to address each of the ideas below separately, your philosophy should address many of the following big ideas throughout:

1. Purpose of Education: Why do you want to teach? Consider some of the ideas below.
 - *Your motivations for teaching*
 - *The role of the student in education*
 - *The role of the teacher in the community*
 - *The role of the community in education*
2. Effective Teaching: What does it mean to be an effective teacher? Consider some of the ideas below.
 - *Building relationships*
 - *Reflective teaching*
 - *Curriculum design*
 - *Instructional strategies*
 - *Assessment practices*
 - *21st century skills*
 - *Technology use*
3. Beliefs About Teaching & Learning: What do you believe about how children learn? Consider some of the ideas below.
 - *Reaching a wide range of learners*
 - *Balancing the needs of individual learners with the whole class*
 - *Setting goals for your students*
 - *Classroom management*
 - *Moral development*
 - *Global awareness*
 - *Parent communication*
 - *Community involvement*

As you write, keep in mind the following:

- Consider using a metaphor, a quote or an anecdote on which to anchor your philosophy.
- Try to avoid using technical terms.
- Determine your audience (prospective employers) and be sure to write with them in mind.
- Use first-person, narrative style.
- Be personal and reflective.

Writing style, grammar and mechanics to keep in mind:

- Include a clear introduction and conclusion; your philosophy should have a beginning, middle and end
- Avoid educational jargon unless you explain it (i.e.: inclusion, NCLB, PSSA)
- Avoid general statements (“All children can learn.”) unless you can justify explain those
- Watch your verb tense (it should be present tense throughout)
- Write in active voice, when possible
- Avoid using the same phrases or words over and over
- Vary your sentence structure and length
- Revise and then proofread!

Philosophy of Teaching Scoring Rubric

Name _____ Date _____

	Proficient (3)	Basic (2)	Below Basic (1)
Position and Support for Position	Provides many good examples and strongly support your position for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of Education: Why teach? • Effective Teaching • Beliefs About Teaching and Learning 	Provides some examples and somewhat supports your position for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of Education: Why teach? • Effective Teaching • Beliefs About Teaching and Learning 	Does not effectively support your position for and/or does not hit upon all the ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of Education: Why teach? • Effective Teaching • Beliefs About Teaching and Learning
Persuasiveness	Is authentic Focuses on personal beliefs Enthusiasm for the field is evident	Has some authenticity Personal voice/beliefs come through sometimes There are hints of enthusiasm	Is not authentic Limited use of personal voice Lack of enthusiasm
Organization	Is very organized and has a logical flow Sentences are concise.	Is organized but does not have a logical flow Sentences are not concise	Disorganized and difficult to follow
Grammar/Mechanics	Contains no mechanical or grammatical errors	Contains few mechanical or grammatical errors	Contains many mechanical or grammatical errors
Style	Written in first person Uses engaging language	Tense may change throughout Language is professional but not engaging	Many tense changes throughout Language is static
Images /Border	Includes relevant images embedded throughout and/or border	Includes semi-relevant images and/or border	Does not include images and/or border

_____ /18 x 2 = _____ /36