Teaching Philosophy Statement

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Definition

“"A teaching philosophy statement is a systematic and critical rationale that focuses on the important components defining effective teaching and their impact on student learning in the post-secondary setting and is sensitive to contextual factors.""
Components of a Teaching Philosophy Statement

- Definition of Teaching
- Definition of Learning
- View of Learner and Student Development
- Student/Teacher Relationship
- Teaching Methods
- Impact on Learner
What does it do?

- Combines your BELIEFS about teaching with your actual PRACTICE and helps you set GOALS for the future
Questions to Consider

- What is my motivation in teaching?
- Under what conditions do I learn and others learn?
- What outcomes do I expect from my teaching?
- What student-teacher interaction do I strive for?
Other Questions

- Does your subject matter effect your beliefs about teaching and learning? If yes, explain.
- What do your goals/aims say about you as a teacher?
- Why do I select particular assignments/experiences for my students?
From my perspective, much of a scientist’s skill lies in his or her ability to ask questions. Thought-provoking questions will inevitably lead students and, in the same way, scientists, to discovery. To that end, I enter into dialogue with my students in the classroom and engage them in active learning by working through problems, both numerical and conceptual, using the question-and-answer process.
Create a list

- “When I teach I …”

- Once you have created the list reflect on why you do what you do?
Metaphor

- What is your metaphor for teaching?
  - Brainstorm characteristics
  - Connect to teaching and learning
Writing a TPS

- To what end? (objectives)
- By what means? (teaching methods, innovative activities, how do you decide to include certain resources or content)
- To what degree? (effectiveness, student outcomes)
- Why? (why is teaching important)
Is the TPS ....

- Organized into a systematic presentation?
- Contextually realistic and appropriate?
- Synthesis of a personal multi-dimensional philosophy?
Samples/ References

- http://it.coe.uga.edu/~mfitzger/teaching-philosophy.html
- http://www.uwo.ca/tsc/resources/selected_teaching_topics/teaching_dossiers/index.html