Developing an Effective Teaching Philosophy Statement

Bill Burke

Teaching and Academic Support Center

Program Manager, Educational Development

Adjunct Faculty, Biology
Developing an Effective Teaching Philosophy Statement

What is it?

A reflective essay on your conception of teaching and learning and how you operationalize those beliefs.
Developing an Effective Teaching Philosophy Statement

Why write one?

Formative and summative reasons

Formative – personal, diagnostic, ongoing, feedback for improvement

Summative – public, documentation, personnel decisions
Developing an Effective Teaching Philosophy Statement

Reflective practice (continual examination and revision)

Part of a personal portfolio
Developing an Effective Teaching Philosophy Statement

1. Establish Learning Goals
2. Design a Strong Syllabus
3. Develop your Philosophy of Teaching
4. Effective Assessment
5. Reflection and Improvement

Which leads you to which help you that lays out your Course Design which are measured with so you can to meet your learning goals that guide you as you Rob Kallmeyer, University of Cincinnati
Developing an Effective Teaching Philosophy Statement

Summative -

- Part of a dossier for documentation
- Job application
- Tenure and promotion dossier
- Teaching award
Developing an Effective Teaching Philosophy Statement

Components

“Developing a Philosophy of Teaching Statement” (Chism, 1998)

• Conceptualization of learning and teaching (metaphors?)
• Goals for students (learning outcomes)
• Implementation of philosophy (operationalization)
• Professional growth plan (reflection and change)
Developing an Effective Teaching Philosophy Statement

Characteristics

- No set format
- Generally 1 – 2 pages
- Use present tense and first person
- Write with audience in mind (use technical terms and jargon judiciously)
Developing an Effective Teaching Philosophy Statement

Characteristics (continued)

Link philosophy with practice

Let the reader “see” you in the classroom

Make it reflective and personal

Make it memorable and unique

Own your philosophy (your beliefs versus the only way)

Your experience
Developing an Effective Teaching Philosophy Statement

Resources

College of Charleston
Center for Effective Teaching and Learning
“Developing a Philosophy of Teaching Statement” (Nancy Chism, 1998)
http://www.cofc.edu/~cetl/Essays/DevelopingaPhilosophyofTeaching.html
Developing an Effective Teaching Philosophy Statement

Resources

The Ohio State University Faculty and TA Development Center
http://ftad.osu.edu/portfolio/philosophy/Philosophy.html

University of Michigan Center for Research in Learning and Teaching
http://www.crlt.umich.edu/tstrategies/tstpts.php
Developing an Effective Teaching Philosophy Statement

Questions?