



# Developing an Effective Teaching Philosophy Statement

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# 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**



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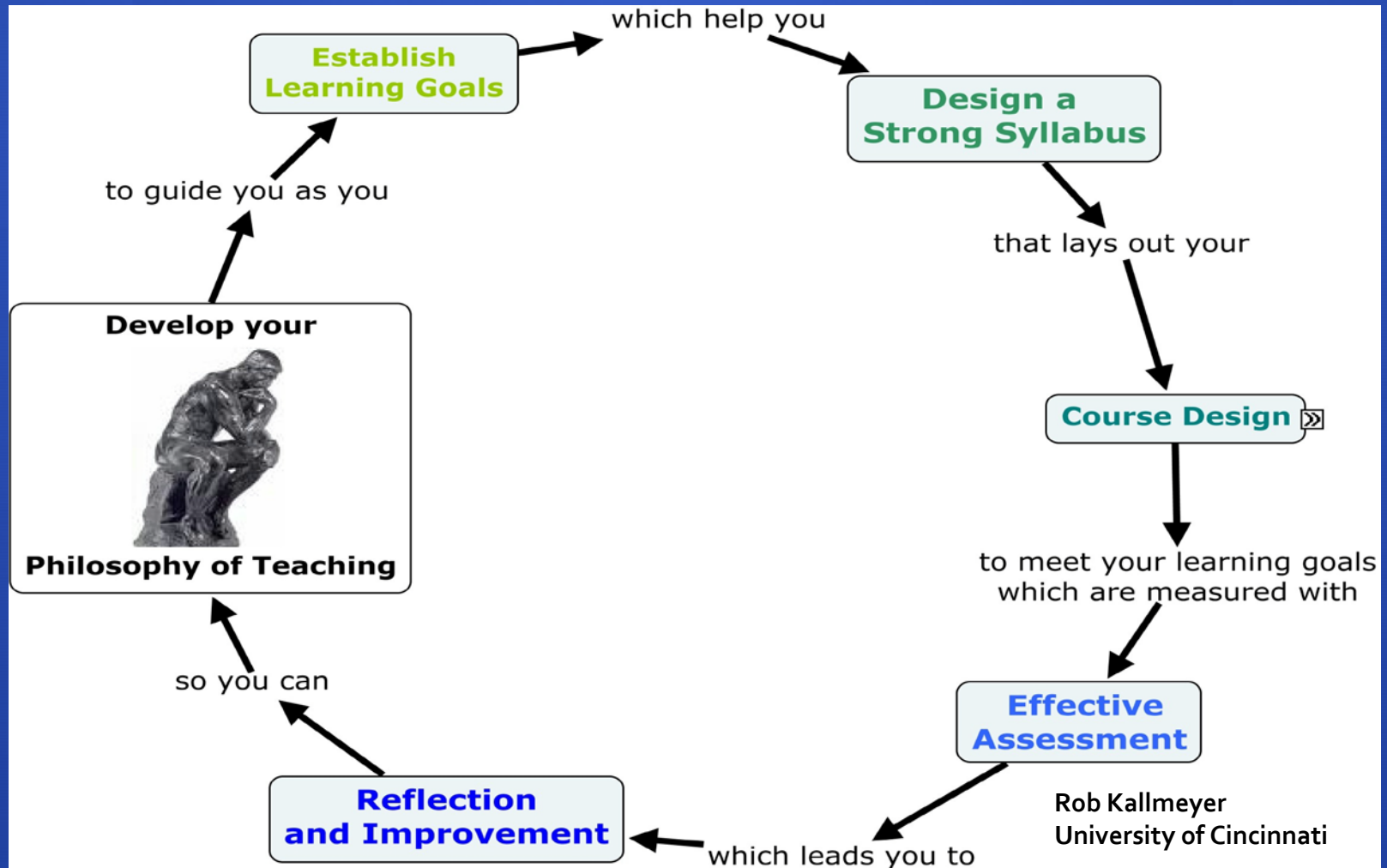
**Formative -**

**Reflective practice (continual examination and revision)**

**Part of a personal portfolio**



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**Summative -**

**Part of a dossier for documentation**

**Job application**

**Tenure and promotion dossier**

**Teaching award**



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## 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)



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## 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)**



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## Characteristics (continued)

Link philosophy with practice

Let the reader “see” you in the classroom

Make it reflective and personal

Your experience

Make it memorable and unique

Own your philosophy (your beliefs versus the only way)



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## 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>



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## 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>



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Questions?