

What's Your Teaching Philosophy?

GTC Fall 2004

You can't answer all these questions in any 1-2 page teaching statement, of course, but you can answer whichever questions best prompt your own thinking about your teaching.

Goals

Who are your role models in teaching? What makes them great teachers?
What made you come to graduate school?
What do you think motivates students?
What are the teaching expectations at the institution where you are applying?
How does your teaching complement your research?
What do you get from teaching that you don't get from other professional activities?
What are your objectives as a teacher?
What do you hope that your students will remember long after the final exam?

Strategies

How are your goals expressed in your classroom?
How do you believe that students learn?
How does a good teacher interact with students?
What would an observer see in your classroom?
What pedagogical methods do you employ?
What specific teaching techniques do you find useful? Give concrete examples.
How do you teach outside of the classroom, too, as a mentor or activist or writer or otherwise?
How would you teach the introductory survey course in your department?
What strategies do you hope to try in the future?

Assessment

What have you learned from teaching?
What do you still struggle to improve in your own teaching?
What makes a course successful?
At the end of the semester, how do you know students have gotten what you hoped they would get? How do you assess student learning?
What is the best complement a student has ever paid you? What does this say about your teaching?

And, Returning to Goals

Why is teaching important to you?
How do you hope to make a difference in the lives of your students?