

# Why do **you** need a teaching philosophy?



In general, because:

- Standard component of academic job applications
- Useful tool for professional growth

As a librarian, because:

- We often seek tricks & tips without a BIG picture perspective
- Useful to our work with faculty
- We have the freedom to write for ourselves

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# What does it look like?

Make it personal by...

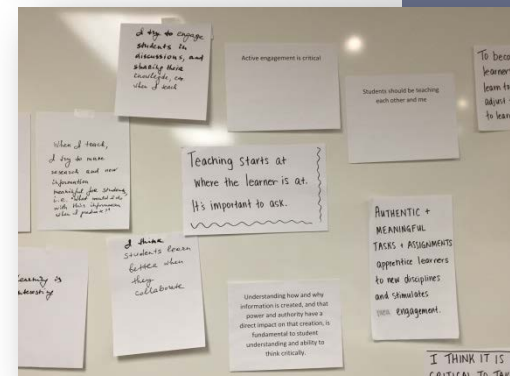
- Using first person/present tense
- Don't generalize – focus on what you do (give examples)
- Take a tone of sharing, rather than giving advice

Most teaching philosophies cover:

- Student learning
- Teaching methods
- Assessment
- Social Needs/Goals

# How do I make one?

- *Why is it so hard?*
  - *What do you enjoy the most about teaching?*
  - *What do you want your students to learn?*
  - *What are your goals when you teach?*
1. Organize a workshop so you don't have to do it alone!
  2. Read pedagogical articles and discuss.
  3. Read example teaching statements.
  4. Free-writing exercises & peer feedback.
  5. Use an outline and begin to draft your philosophy.



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# 3 Online Resources

Writing your teaching philosophy (Allison Boye, Texas Tech University).

[http://www.depts.ttu.edu/tlpdc/Resources/Teaching\\_resources/TLPDC\\_teaching\\_resources/Documents/WritingYourTeachingPhilosophywhitepaper.pdf](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/tlpdc/Resources/Teaching_resources/TLPDC_teaching_resources/Documents/WritingYourTeachingPhilosophywhitepaper.pdf)

Write a winning teaching statement (Columbia University)

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/tat/pdfs/teaching%20statement.pdf>

Exploring your teaching philosophy (University of Waterloo)

<https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/teaching-resources/teaching-tips/professional-development/enhancing-your-teaching/exploring-your-teaching-philosophy>