TA/TF Workshop
Creating a Teaching Philosophy
You Can Use

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Discover the power of ideas.
Why does an instructor need a statement of teaching philosophy?

- Such statements are often required
- Goals guide excellent practice
- A philosophy aids in decision making
- Reflection helps instruction be more effective
- A philosophy provides an assessment standard
"Those who know do . . .

Those who understand teach."

Aristotle
Where do you want to go?

obsessedwithfilm.com

hubpages.com/hub/Alice-In-Wonderland-Quotes
Thinking About “It”

- What do you think is the most important factor in your relationship with your students?

- Write down!
- Share it with your partner!
- Print it on the sentence strip!
Time to Think!

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Time to Share—Pairwise
Time to Share—Groupwise

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How do you create a useful document?

“Doc” recommends the following:

• A general principle

  followed by

• An explication

  followed by

• A resolution
For example:

• “The primary role of an effective teacher is serving his students.”

• “As an outgrowth of my personal ethic, I have a responsibility to serve my student, because they are my fellow human beings, and because I am responsible in part for their education.”

• “I resolve to maintain a ‘servant’s heart,’ to humbly discharge my responsibilities to my students with a cheerful and generous spirit.”
Thinking About “It”

- Choose one general principle.
- Succinctly articulate what it means.
- Think, now! (Check out the worksheet template)
- Write it down!
- Share it with your partner!
- Print it on the sentence strip!
Time to Think!

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Time to Share—Pairwise

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Time to Share—Groupwise
Some ‘Thinks’ to consider:

Consider the following:

• Engagement— “80% of success is showing up.”

• Teaching and learning can be informed by neuroscience and psychology

• Discovery of fallacious constructs is a worthwhile activity

• You are the “coach” not the nurse
Some More ‘Thinks’ to consider:
Consider the following:

• Teaching is a craft.

• Ideas are important.

• Knowledge is constructed by the learner.

• Truthfulness is essential.
Even more ‘Thinks’ to consider:

Consider the following:

- Planning is very important.
- Technology is a useful tool.
- People learn best by different means.
- The teacher must be a perpetual learner.
What do you think?
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- Spouse
William Shakespeare:

“If to do were as easy as to know what were good to do, chapels had been churches, and poor men's cottages princes’ places. It is a good divine that follows his own instructions: I can easier teach twenty what were good to be done, than be one of the twenty to follow mine own teaching.”

Portia in The Merchant of Venice Act I Scene2
Parting Warning:

A disadvantage of a good reputation

“Bummer of a birthmark, Hal.”
Parting Warning:

Your choice: laugh or cry. Keep your sense of humor.
What concerns/questions do you still have about composing an effective Statement of Philosophy of Teaching?


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"'Doc’ can I be excused?
My brain is full."