

Winthrop University
College of Visual and Performing Arts
Department of Theatre and Dance
SAMPLE ASSIGNMENT

DCED 391: Principles of Dance Education

Writing Your Teaching Philosophy Statement

For this assignment, write a 2 page philosophy statement. We have already discussed the following ideas in relation to philosophy statements in class:

1. Your philosophy statement should represent your personal values/beliefs about teaching/learning and how you infuse them into your teaching practice.
2. The core idea of your philosophy should be the main idea, the thesis, of your statement and reflect the secondary statements within it.
3. You should use examples to support your general and abstract ideas about teaching/learning.
4. Avoid too much dance vocabulary and/or educational jargon. You want your philosophy statement to be accessible to individuals from various disciplinary backgrounds.
5. Introduce your ideas in the beginning of your statement and sum them up at the end.
6. Avoid controlling words like “mold” and/or “instill” when speaking about your interactions with students.
7. Remember, a tone of humility will make you sound less self-involved and/or snobby. By recognizing that you are always learning from your experiences as a teacher it makes the point that you are open to the changes that must occur in your practice to reflect changes in educational policy and theories.

Please type and either use 1.5 line spacing or double-space your work. Use 1 inch margins or slightly smaller if necessary. Please bring two copies of your teaching philosophy statement to class. Here are some additional guidelines for written work to help you while you prepare this assignment:

Guidelines for Written Work

Your written work will be graded on both content and form. An advanced level of writing is an expectation in this course. Therefore, I have included a list of the guidelines and requirements for written work below.

1. A clearly stated thesis
2. Clear writing that presents a coherent point and cogent argument
3. No grammatical, spelling, and/or punctuation errors

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4. The arrangement of words in the sentences and the sentences themselves flow well and create a nice rhythm when read aloud
5. Paragraphs are organized in a manner that supports the flow of your writing, your ideas are well-developed, and each paragraph contains enough sentences to fully express your ideas
6. A conclusion that summarizes and possibly extends what you have said
7. Avoiding the use of "man" or "mankind" when referring to "human beings"

**Points 5-7 are borrowed from Dr. AnaLouise Keating

After you have completed your teaching philosophy, complete the self-check worksheet below and turn it in with your philosophy statement.

Teaching Philosophy Statement Self-Check Worksheet

1. **Without copying it, restate your teaching philosophy. What is your big idea?**
2. **What do you discuss in each paragraph? Identify each paragraph by number. (e.g. paragraph #1, paragraph #2, etc.)**
3. **What examples do you use to support your ideas? In other words, how do you/would you implement your ideas in the classroom/studio?**
4. **Without copying it, summarize your conclusion. How does it sum up and possibly extend what you have said in your philosophy statement?**