

Guideline to Writing a Philosophy of Education

Philosophy is a search for wisdom. In forming a philosophy a teacher searches for the wisdom to maximize the learning for all students. Philosophy builds a framework for thinking and guides instructional practice. Your philosophy should address the four common features of education in Posner and Tomlison: The role of the teacher, the needs and role of the students, the process of instruction and learning and the context or environment for learning.

Or to put it in another way, the who—teacher and student, the what—instructional matter, the how-- teaching strategies and learning styles and the why-- what is the goal of education? Remember that a philosophy addresses your beliefs about the ideal situation; what should be done in ideal situations.

- A. Organize your ideas according to the four common features:
 1. Who: Teacher and students
 2. What: subject matter to succeed in life
 3. How: learning styles, classroom climate and teaching strategies
 4. Why: what you believe is the goal of education.
- B. Prepare an outline of your main points on the topic or a graphic organizer of your ideas.
- C. Write your thesis statement: the thesis statement tells the reader what the essay is about and what points on that topic you will be making.
- D. Write the body—there should be a paragraph on each of your main points.
- E. Write the introduction (include your thesis statement)-the introductory paragraph may contain a personal story or experience that illustrates your points and leads gently into your thesis.
- F. Write the conclusion—sum up your points and provide a final perspective about the topic.
- G. Type the first draft—proofread your draft for logical flow of ideas and correct grammatical or typographical errors.
- H. Ask someone to read the essay for you and make suggestions
- I. Type the final draft.

This Statement along with your Student Information Sheet will be sent to principals and potential cooperating teachers. Your Information Sheet and Statement will be the first glimpse that others will have of you as a professional educator. Please be sure to make sure the documents create the image you hope to project to future employers.