



HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Philosophy of Teaching /Education Statement

The Philosophy of Teaching (POT) is an essay that communicates your approach to teaching and what teaching means to you as an educator. Because the POT is a personal essay, it is often written in the first person. You will include the POT in your educator portfolio and may be asked for it as part of an application.

The POT articulates your motivations and goals as an educator with the intention of giving the reader a sense of who you are without actually observing you. Early in your career the POT is one to two pages.

The Philosophy of Teaching requires self-reflection because the essay reflects your beliefs on education and teaching style. It's a platform where you share your beliefs regarding what you consider to be the best ways to inspire learning in your students.

Structure

Introduction:

Describe your views and ideals of teaching in a general sense. This does not have to be lengthy since your next section will provide more detail.

Body:

This section is where you can elaborate on the introduction. Consider 3 to 5 paragraphs as a good foundation but know you can add more if you have strong examples. The focus of this section is to communicate what you value most as an educator and to cite examples of your practice.

Conclusion:

In lieu of just restating your educational philosophy, you might consider discussing your goals as an educator. You could state how you have addressed goals in the past and how you plan to build upon selected professional development goals to address future challenges.

Components of a Philosophy of Education Statement

Personal perception of teaching: Describe what teaching means to you, your teaching processes, and how you can facilitate those processes. You can include elements such as facilitating the learning process, motivating students, challenging all students academically, and supporting all students learning abilities.

Personal perception of learning: Describe what learning means to you and what exactly happens in a learning situation. Consider drawing comparisons with known philosophies that you draw upon for your work.

Your teaching goals: Describe your goals for your students. List the various talents or skills that you expect your students to acquire through your teaching. In addition to the goals that you have set for students, you should also provide the rationale behind these goals and how you will keep modifying goals to meet the continuously expanded learning needs of your students.

Executing your philosophy of education statement: Elaboration of the different activities that you will implement to enable your students to achieve their goals is important to include in the POT. Illustrate how your perceptions of teaching and learning will be translated into class assignments.

Your growth mindset as a teacher: As part of personal continuous improvement, educators set goals for themselves and outline their ways to achieve these goals. The personal goals that you have set for yourself as an educator should be mentioned in your philosophy of education statement.