How do I develop a philosophy of teaching?

Module focus

- defining your approach to teaching
- defining your view of learning

Module outcomes

- you will be familiar with how to analyse and determine your beliefs about teaching and learning
- you will be able to write a philosophy of teaching statement

'Teachers are here to teach. Students are here to learn!'

Take a moment to reflect on this issue.

What challenges does this pose for *your* teaching? ……

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Possible solutions

1. Your views of what teaching is will influence your approach to teaching. Your approach to teaching will be influenced by your view of how students learn. Try a teaching style inventory (see below).
2. Include a philosophy of teaching statement in your professional portfolio.

More help

1. http://fcrcweb.ftr.indstate.edu/tstyles3.html - this site contains a teaching style inventory which allows you to analyse your style of teaching.
2. http://www.flinders.edu.au/teaching/support/teaching-staff/support-for-new-teaching-staff/writing-a-philosophical--statement-of-your-approach.cfm - Flinders University advice for developing a philosophical statement about your teaching.
3. http://tlu.ecom.unimelb.edu.au/pdfs/teach_portfolio_guide.pdf - guidelines for developing an effective teaching portfolio, from the Faculty of Economics and Commerce, University of Melbourne.
4. http://www.celt.iastate.edu/teaching/philosophy.html - advice for writing a philosophy of teaching statement.
5. http://ucat.osu.edu/portfolio/philosophy/Philosophy.html - discusses purpose, format and components of teaching philosophy statements, including a set of sample statements.

Related topics

How do I know how adults learn?