A Statement of Philosophy is a reflective piece, generally one page long that summarizes your core educational beliefs. The statement may explain why you chose teaching as a career or describe essential goals that you hope to accomplish in your classroom. Since the Statement of Philosophy also serves as a writing sample, it must demonstrate mastery of spelling, grammar and other rules of written English.

Consider the following questions as you draft your essay:

- Why is teaching an important profession?
- Was there an influential person, perhaps a revered teacher in your life who shaped your career goals and your views about teaching?
- Was there a theorist, a researcher or a book about education that inspired your teaching philosophy? How?
- What is your teaching style and why do you feel it is effective?
- What is the ideal relationship between teachers and learners in the classroom?
- How do you view yourself as a learner?
- How do you want students to remember you?

GUIDELINES

1. Your philosophy of education statement addresses the 4 Domains
   - Planning and Preparation
   - Classroom Environment
   - Evaluation, and
   - Professional Responsibilities

A philosophy of education statement includes your beliefs about: what your role(s) are as a teacher; what content is important to teach, what strategies or methods you would implement to teach diverse student learners (skills, knowledge, and abilities) how, why, and when you would engage in student assessment, and your strategies for creating a positive classroom environment.

2. Your philosophy of education statement links your beliefs with theory.
   Your beliefs are to be supported with quotes by educational leaders, curriculum theorists, and
philosophers, who share your approaches and views toward education, teaching, and/or learning.

3. It is a critical reflection that should be well written, organized, clear, and convincing.
   o Your beliefs should relate to the quotes and philosophers that you select.
   o When quoting, follow APA style: cite the author, date of publication and page number, etc.
   o Connect your beliefs to the WI Standards when appropriate in your text.
   o Proofread for grammar, spelling, and accuracy.

4. Your philosophy may contain a metaphor for teaching.
   If you have already written a metaphor for teaching, you can include it in your beginning paragraph.

5. Your philosophy of education statement should be concise.
   1-2 pages