

## Your Teaching Philosophy

### Preamble:

You are engaged in a connected learning community. You have considered the challenges of assessment, thought about the relevance of mindful learning, and strategized over how best to engage the imaginations of digital learners. You have thought about how to develop your own authentic teaching self and design a learner-centered syllabus. Together we have worked through the imperatives and premises of inclusive pedagogies and have considered the importance of diversity, inclusion, and critical pedagogy in higher education today.

### You are ready for the next step!

For this GEDI assignment you will write a teaching philosophy statement. This will be a dynamic document – one that you will revisit and revise over the course of your career. Whether you are an experienced teacher, just starting out, or haven't yet begun to teach, thinking about and writing down what you are about as a teacher is an important act of reflection, iteration and professional development.

### Directions:

Write a two-page statement of your teaching philosophy. **Just two pages.** They can be single or double spaced, but two pages is the maximum. Many of you will incorporate later versions of this statement into your teaching portfolio or job application. In the academic job market, one or two pages is the norm for this item.

### How to begin:

- 1) Read and think about the materials for Week 12, especially the “required readings.” Note that the University of Minnesota tutorial provides very specific directions about drafting and assessing your teaching philosophy. You may also refer to any other useful resources you find. If you tweet them to #gedivt the collective will thank you.
- 2) Start by “freewriting” – try jotting down the points and ideas that best capture your approach to teaching and learning.
- 3) Read some sample Teaching Philosophies from your discipline or a related discipline. But be wary of intentionally or unintentionally mimicking the style or content of someone else's teaching philosophy and do **NOT** borrow directly from anyone else.
- 4) As you flesh out your draft, try to strike a balance between being too generic and too detailed. It is important (and difficult) to avoid simplistic truisms about teaching. Yet you must do so. Be honest and avoid hyperbole. (Whew!)

5) Think about the environments in which you will be teaching and discuss the kinds of tools and technologies you will use to support active learning.

**Due Date #1:** Put a copy of your Teaching Philosophy Statement in the appropriate folder on our Drive before the beginning of class on **Wednesday, October 31**. We will work with the Teaching Philosophy Statements during class. Please bring your laptops to class as well.

**Due Date #2:** Submit the final version of your Teaching Philosophy along with the rest of your portfolio by December 5 (the due date for the portfolio of all your GEDI assignments.)