

Thompson Rivers University campuses are on the traditional lands of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (Kamloops campus) and the T'exelc (Williams Lake campus) within Secwépemc'ulucw, the traditional and unceded territory of the Secwépemc. Our region also extends into the territories of the St'át'imc, Nlaka'pamux, Nuxalk, Tâilhqot'in, Dakelh, and Syilx peoples.



Educational Philosophy Statements

May 25, 2023





Educational Philosophy Statements

Purpose

Key components

Values, perspectives

Discussion of samples

Critical moments exercise

Writing Time

Why an Educational Philosophy Statement?

- To provide
 - An introduction your dossier
 - A roadmap of your expertise
 - A framework for your evidence
- To tell your story



Photo by [Mark König](#) on [Unsplash](#)

What Are the Key Components of an Educational Philosophy Statement?

Beliefs (What do you think?)



```
graph TD; A[Beliefs (What do you think?)] --> B[Strategies (What do you do?)]; B --> C[Impact (What is the effect on learners, self, colleagues?)]; C --> D[Future Goals (How will you improve?)]
```

Strategies (What do you do?)

Impact (What is the effect on learners, self, colleagues?)

Future Goals (How will you improve?)

(Kenny, Berenson, Jeffs, Nowell, & Grant, 2018)

What Matters to You?

Values & Perspectives:

- [Use a list to get started \(see handout\)](#)
- [Or a Values card exercise](#)
- Name and explain what's important to you
- Think about times when you acted accordingly



List of VALUES

Accountability
Achievement
Adaptability
Adventure
Altruism
Ambition
Authenticity
Balance
Beauty
Being the best
Belonging
Career
Caring
Collaboration
Commitment
Community
Compassion
Competence
Confidence
Connection
Contentment
Contribution
Cooperation
Courage
Creativity
Curiosity
Dignity

Diversity
Environment
Efficiency
Equality
Ethics
Excellence
Fairness
Faith
Family
Financial stability
Forgiveness
Freedom
Friendship
Fun
Future generations
Generosity
Giving back
Grace
Gratitude
Growth
Harmony
Health
Home
Honesty
Hope
Humility
Humor
Inclusion
Independence
Initiative
Integrity

Intuition
Job security
Joy
Justice
Kindness
Knowledge
Leadership
Learning
Legacy
Leisure
Love
Loyalty
Making a difference
Nature
Openness
Optimism
Order
Parenting
Patience
Patriotism
Peace
Perseverance
Personal fulfillment
Power
Pride
Recognition
Reliability
Resourcefulness
Respect
Responsibility
Risk-taking

Safety
Security
Self-discipline
Self-expression
Self-respect
Serenity
Service
Simplicity
Spirituality
Sportsmanship
Stewardship
Success
Teamwork
Thrift
Time
Tradition
Travel
Trust
Truth
Understanding
Uniqueness
Usefulness
Vision
Vulnerability
Wealth
Well-being
Wholeheartedness
Wisdom

Write your own:



(<https://daretolead.brenebrown.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Values.pdf>)

Sample Philosophy Statements

- [Open the link in the chat](#)
- Or look at the handout
- Skim the sample philosophy statements
- In small groups or individually, select 1-2 samples and consider them: What do you like about them? Which ones speak to you? Which might work in your context?
- Report back some of your findings



Critical Moments

- [Use the worksheet provided](#)
- Consider moments when you were called to act according to your values:
 - What, where, when, how and why, who
 - Times of discord/debate help us discover what matters to us
 - Add in plenty of details (edit later)
- (10 mins)



Writing Time

Spend some time exploring in writing how you enact your values in your teaching or professional practice

- Flip chart paper on the wall
- Your computer or other device
- Pen and paper
- Concept mapping/mind mapping, freewriting, other strategies

Consider the examples you saw and draw from them, if that works for you

If it helps, brainstorm or chat with a colleague

We'll check in at about 10:40

Summary

- Write now, edit later
- No one-size approach
- Specificity - use examples
- Tie it to the evidence in your dossier
- Review samples from colleagues
- Find friendly reviewers to look at yours



Photo by [Florian Klauer](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Resources

Worksheet:

Ellis, D., & Griffin, G. (2000). Developing a teaching philosophy statement: A special challenge for graduate students. *Journal of Graduate Teaching Assistant Development*, 7(2), pp. 85-92.

Slides:

Brown, B.. (2019). List of Values. *Dare to Lead*. Retrieved from: <https://daretolead.brenebrown.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Values.pdf>

Kenny, N., Berenson, C., Jeffs, C., Nowell, L., & Grant, K. (2018). Teaching Philosophies and Teaching Dossiers Guide. Calgary, AB: Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning. Retrieved from <http://www.ucalgary.ca/taylorinstitute/resources/>

Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning (2020). Sample Teaching Philosophies and Dossiers: Teaching Philosophy Statements (various authors). Retrieved from <https://taylorinstitute.ucalgary.ca/resources/sample-teaching-philosophy-statements>

