



# Developing Your Teaching Philosophy

a Webinar presented to Niche Academy

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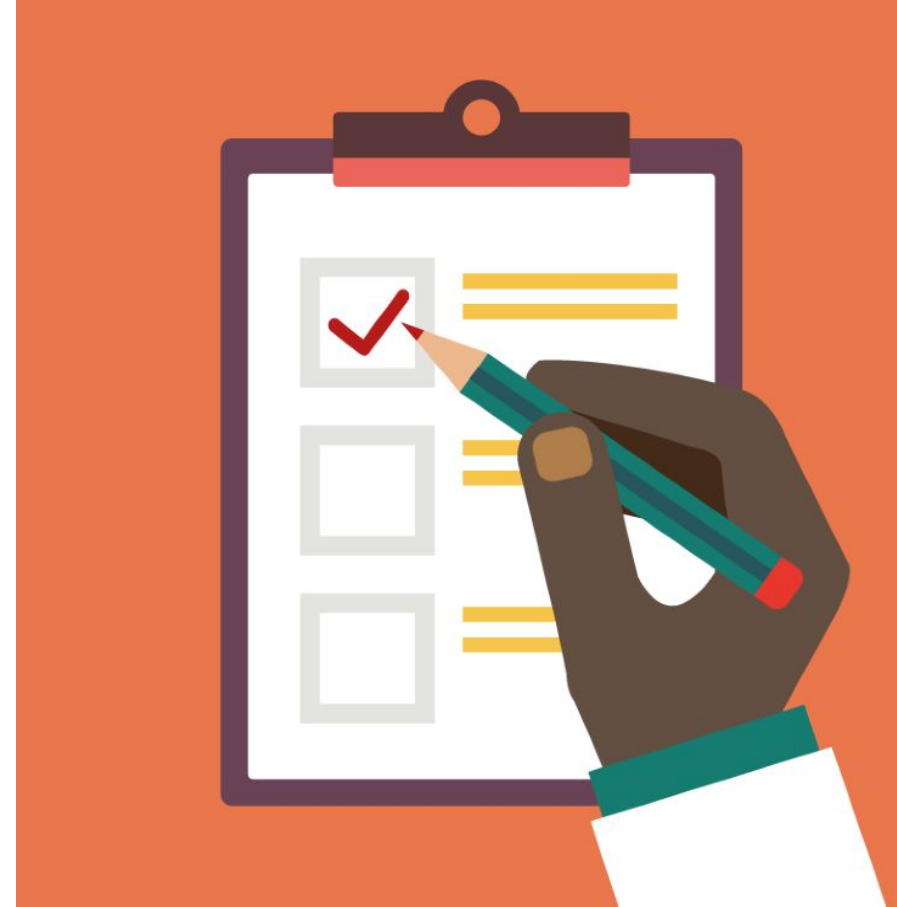
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# Agenda

1. Brief Introductions
2. What is a Teaching Philosophy Statement (TPS)?
3. Why is it Important?
4. Questions for Self-Reflection
5. Five Learning Theories
  - i. Cognitive constructivism
  - ii. Social constructivism
  - iii. Behaviorism
  - iv. Connectivism
  - v. Andragogy
6. Components of a TPS
7. Technical Specifications
8. Sample TPS
9. Conclusion



# Brief Introductions



- As librarians we occupy multiple professional identities
- At my institution, I am responsible for marketing/PR, information literacy instruction, reference librarian, liaison librarian, selector for Psychology department
- We come to the library classroom with different academic backgrounds and a wide array of life experiences. My background is in Sociology and Adult Education
- I'm completing my PhD in the Learning Sciences at the Graduate School of Education, University at Buffalo, State University of New York (SUNY)
- As educators, we can reveal \*some\* of our personal selves in the classroom

# What is a Teaching Philosophy Statement?



- A living document that documents your personal beliefs about teaching and learning
- A self-reflective personal narrative that expresses your values about teaching
- Includes a depiction of how you teach and the reasons for these methods
- Usually one to four pages and covers the following three areas: goals, methods, and assessment

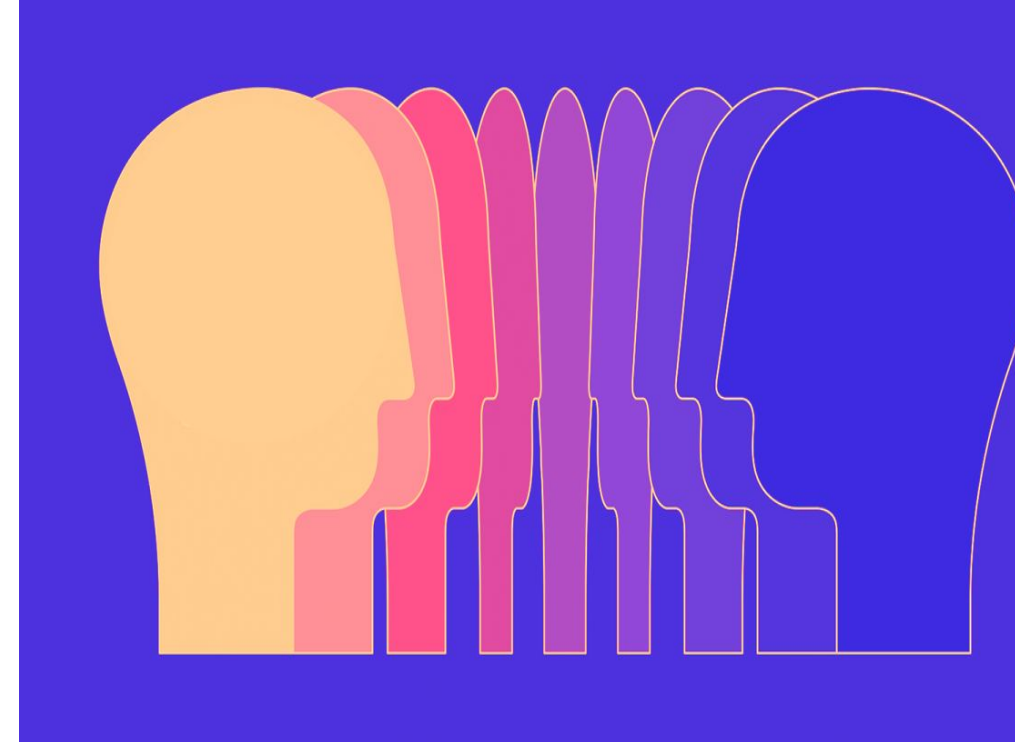
# Why is it Important?

- Is the “why”, “what”, and “how” of your teaching
- It provides a framework that informs your teaching, while conveying your goals, abilities and values
- It summarizes your personal beliefs about teaching and learning
- Helpful when applying for tenure, promotion, and a great addition to your teaching portfolio



# Questions for Self-Reflection

- What are your general belief about education?
- What are your teaching goals and objectives?
- How much of your personal life do you reveal?
- What theory/theories inform your teaching?
- What does your ideal classroom look like?
- What types of activities do you use in the classroom?
- What is your teaching style?



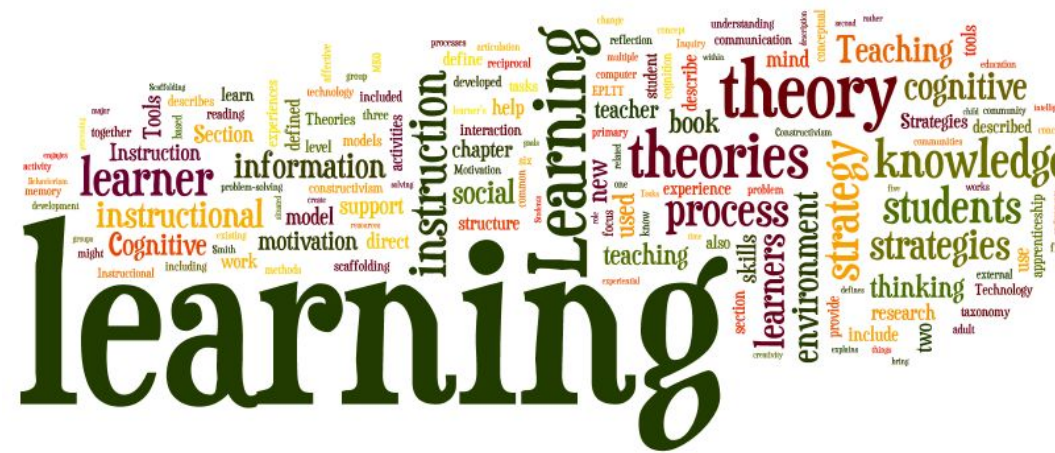






# Five Learning Theories

(from Psychology, Education, Philosophy)



## 3. Behaviorism (BF Skinner)

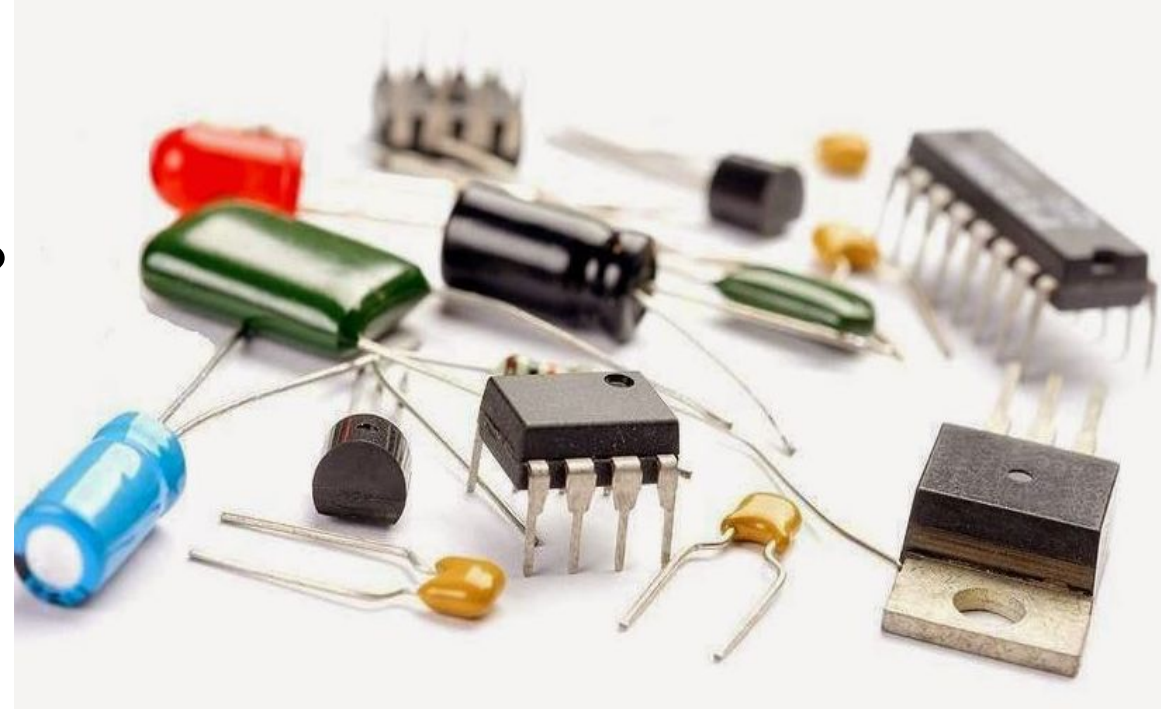
- Learning changes one's behavior (positive reinforcement)
- Learning is a reaction and response to stimuli
- Repetition, motivation, and positive reinforcement are all components of behavioral learning theory





# Components of a TPS

1. Your Teaching Values and Beliefs
2. Your Teaching Methods (how you teach)
3. Which Theory/Theories inform your teaching?
4. Your Teaching Goals
5. Goals for Your Students
6. Types of Assessment
  - 6a. Types of Student Assessment Used
  - 6b. Assessing Your Own Teaching
7. Your Ideal Classroom Environment



# Components of a TPS

## 1. Your Teaching Values and Beliefs

- What are your general beliefs about education?
- Why did you pursue teaching?
- What is your unique teaching style?
- What part(s) of your personal life do you share?



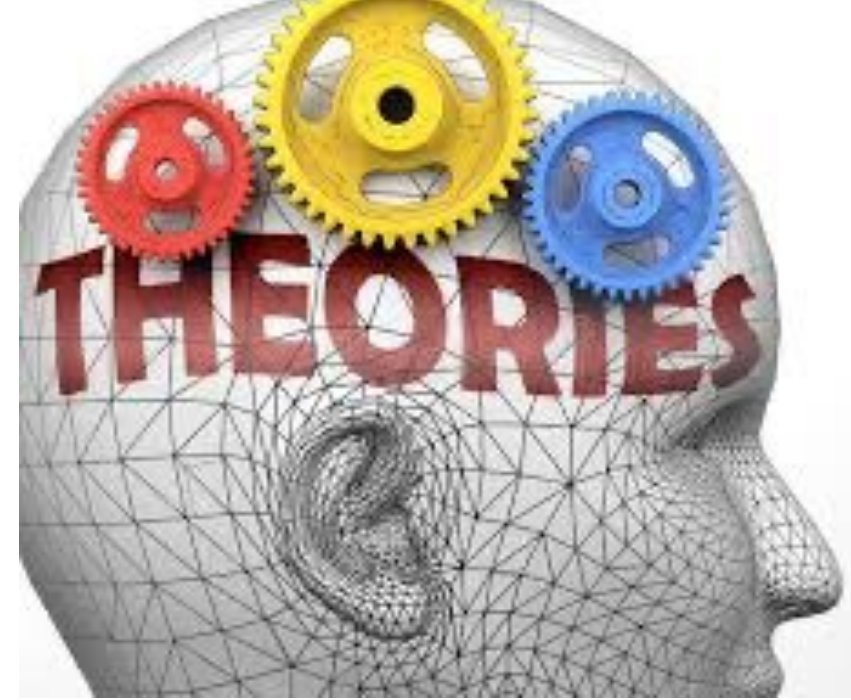
# Components of a TPS

## 2. What are Your Teaching Methods?

- Monologue versus Dialogue
- Instructional Scaffolding
- Critical Pedagogy
- Group work /team-based learning
- Multimodal compositions (creating texts using multimedia technology)
- Game-based learning (gaming principles are used to teach more complex concepts)
- Experiential learning (learning by doing)
- In-person versus online teaching



# Components of a TPS



## 3. Which Theories Inform your Teaching?

- You can “mix” different theories into your TPS
- Your theoretical lens may change over time
- Does teaching in-person or online change your theoretical lens?

# Components of a TPS



## 4. Goals for Yourself (as Teacher)

- What do you want your students to learn?
- What are the 3 most important “takeaways” from the lesson?
- What are your learning objectives/outcomes?
- What do you want to improve/adjust in your own teaching?



# Components of a TPS

## 5. Goals for Your Students

- Develop critical thinking skills
- Be better researchers
- Cite sources
- Avoid plagiarism



# Components of a TPS

## 6a. Types of Student Assessments

- a. formative- take place during a course
- b. summative- evaluate student learning at the end of a lesson
- c. do you prefer multiple choice questions, short answer, essay questions
- d. open-ended versus closed-ended questions
- e. flexible deadlines for all assignments and tests/quizzes



# Components of a TPS

## 6b. Assess your Own Teaching

- a. video record yourself
- b. peer evaluation
- c. feedback from supervisor
- d. student evaluation forms



# Components of a TPS



## 7. Your Ideal Classroom Environment?

- a. classroom management  
(communicating policies about food, texting, using phone, bathroom breaks, behavior)
- b. fostering interaction amongst learners
- c. promoting a respectful and inclusive class environment
- d. balancing self-directed work and team-work
- e. incorporating Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles in class

# Technical Specifications

- Write in first person
- Avoid jargon
- Use present tense
- Use specific examples to illustrate your teaching methods
- You may compose a TPS for one-shots, research consultations, or in-person/online teaching
- Cite learning theorists who inform your teaching



# Sample TPS



<https://taylorinstitute.ucalgary.ca/resources/sample-teaching-philosophy-statements>

<https://faculty.uwmedicine.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Sample-Teaching-Philosophy-Statements.pdf>

<https://crlt.umich.edu/tstrategies/tstpum>

[https://teach.its.uiowa.edu/sites/teach.its.uiowa.edu/files/docs/docs/Philosophy\\_of\\_Teaching\\_Statement\\_ed.pdf](https://teach.its.uiowa.edu/sites/teach.its.uiowa.edu/files/docs/docs/Philosophy_of_Teaching_Statement_ed.pdf)

<https://pce.sandiego.edu/teaching-philosophy-examples/>

# Conclusion



- Your teaching philosophy statement is a living document
- It articulates your views on the purpose of education
- Identifies your teaching goals and objectives
- A teaching philosophy statement is not your CV
- It describes “why”, “what”, and “how” you teach
- Describes your unique teaching practices

# Thank you!

# Questions?



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**My teaching philosophy statement:**

<https://markaaronpolger.com/teaching-philosophy/>