Your personal philosophy of teaching describes your evolving educational beliefs and values, and how they will guide your teaching and impact student learning. It is an expression of your professional goals and values. It should include such things as:

- Your motivations for teaching
- Your personal objectives as a teacher
- The methods you believe are the best – and why
- Your teaching style and strategies
- Your means of assessing your effectiveness in achieving your objectives
- Explanation of how your teaching is consistent with these goals
- The roles of the teacher and the students
- Personal goals that you have set for yourself as a teacher.

Some Guiding Questions that may help

Take time to reflect, think about which beliefs are fundamental to your teaching style. Jot down your responses to each question, this is just for brainstorming, you'll expand upon these thoughts.

1. I believe that the goal of education is...
2. I believe that school should be...
3. I believe that knowledge is...
4. I believe that all students can...
5. I believe that every child deserves...
6. I believe that all children should learn... (talk about exceptionalities, ELLs, other aspects of diversity)
7. I believe that children learn best when...
8. I believe that a teacher is...
9. I believe that a teacher must...
10. I believe that as a teacher, my role in the educational process is...
11. I believe that the role of students in the educational process is...
12. I believe that the role of parents in the educational process is...

- Now that you have these notes... think and write about "why" you hold each of these beliefs and how you, as a teacher, can structure and influence the learning environment to foster the qualities you feel important. Describe specific strategies you use/will use to meet standards and instructional objectives and how you will know that these have been met.
- Cite research and current developments in education to support your strategies. To show that you understand that developing teaching skills is a process of continual refinement, talk about personal professional growth goals that you have set for yourself.
- Review how these goals are consistent with your teaching philosophy and what you will do to achieve them. Organized your thoughts to logically convey your feelings to the intended audience. Make sure that your statement has an introduction and a conclusion that supports all of your beliefs.
- Remember, your teaching philosophy is an action plan that guides your performance in the classroom. It should be unique to YOU!

Some tips about formatting your philosophy

- No more than 2 pages long (single or double spaced, whatever you need)
- This should not just be a repeat of the "I believe" note-taking questions followed by your answers
- Write in the present tense and in an active voice as it is easiest to read and relate to
  - Example: Active: Mary mailed the letter, Passive: the letter was mailed by Mary
- Use language that is appropriate to the intended audience (school administrators)
- Include specific examples of your personal philosophy of teaching so that the reader can actually 'see' how you interact with your students even though they have not observed your classroom interactions
- Have an educator proofread your philosophy and be responsive to their feedback