

Teaching Portfolios

- A collection of materials that documents one's teaching philosophy and performance.
- A statement of teaching philosophy explains why you teach. It often addresses some of the following questions:
 - Why do I study this subject?
 - What do I expect to be the outcomes of my teaching?
 - What is the student-teacher relationship I strive to achieve?
 - How do I know when I have taught successfully?
 - What are some of my successful teaching achievements?
- Pros
 - Allows you to review your teaching methods and philosophy. Putting your methods and philosophy in words helps you think about them.
 - Its another opportunity to receive feedback on your teaching, if you make your portfolio public.
 - For students and junior faculty, for better or for worse, a teaching portfolio may be part of your dossier for job applications and promotions.
- Cons
 - Time consuming to prepare.
 - The research showing their effectiveness is mainly anecdotal.
- Summary: Improving your teaching skills is important and rewarding. Some people will find putting together a formal portfolio to be helpful, and will do it on their own. Some people will be required to do so. Whatever your case may be, it is a good idea to evaluate your teaching philosophy and performance from time to time, even if the evaluation remains private and informal.