

Teaching Statement Talking Points

- Purpose: show that you've thought about your students and teaching style
 - Tailor this to the institution
 - Say more than "students should learn" and "I am a good speaker"
 - What do you think are some of the most important aspects to a successful learning experience? Keep in mind, most students aren't like you were.
 - Successful students have time to talk through their ideas on the material and check in with you to make sure they understand. Developing a classroom environment (not just office hours) that does this enables the most students to be successful.
- Don't be so hard on yourself! Nobody wants to read a self-denigrating essay.
- Sell what experience you do have:
 - Revising labs = "developing curriculum"
 - Leading student discussion = "emphasizing a student-centered classroom"
 - Outreach talks (including BoV) = "encouraging scientific literacy"
 - Engaging students in office hours = "guided questioning strategies"
 - Include how much time you've spent doing these things, e.g. "I've spent one semester developing curriculum, but I've been actively developing guided questioning strategies in office hours over 4 semesters."
 - Include specifics. What did you actually do? Include an example so they know it's not just buzzwords and you're consciously reflecting on your experience.
 - Know your audience. Sell yourself the right amount.