

Teaching | Counseling | Education

A Philosophy Statement is a reflective document common to the field of education intended to create a professional and strong image of who you are as a teacher or counselor, featuring your beliefs and practices. It is written in a narrative first-person context and is a living document as it will evolve as you acquire knowledge and experience. You will be writing about your foundation of teaching or counseling. For length, 1 page is recommended for entry-level careers, 2-3 pages for advanced positions.

Prior to writing your philosophy statement, consider exploring your beliefs and education foundation. Refer to your professional standards and [competencies](#) that you practice to meet the needs of students. Use these questions to reflect on your beliefs, practices, and theories relevant to education. Consider writing short statement for each question with multiple drafts before the final version.

Know Your Vision: What is Education to You?

- What is your vision?
- What are you trying to achieve/what are your objectives?
- Why is teaching/counseling important for you?
- Do you have a learning/counseling theory? What is it and why is it important to you?
- How do you develop a student's potential? What methods would you use to deliver content, services, resources to students and parents?
- What are your responsibilities in and outside of the classroom?
- What are your beliefs on education, equity, diversity, and inclusion?
- How do people learn? How do you work with students with unique learning and behavior needs? Students who are academically/behaviorally challenged and students who excel academically?
- Does your vision align with the school's vision?

Know Your Audience

- Conduct research on the school district of your interest to learn about their mission and vision. Capture words/phrases used throughout their website.
- Learn about the school's demographics and learning environment.
- Learn about the academic programs and extracurricular activities offered to students such as dual immersion, dual enrollment with community colleges, CTE pathways, AVID, sports, etc.
- Learn about the [Comprehensive School Counseling program](#).