

## QUESTIONS TO PROMOTE INITIAL REFLECTION

1. What teaching methods do you use and why?
2. What theoretical discourses inform your teaching and why?
3. What does “learning” mean to you as applied to your discipline?
4. What specific practices do you use to motivate students?
5. How would you describe the relationships fostered in the process of teaching and learning between you and your students and among your students?
6. If you were to write your own teaching biography, how would you say your teaching has changed over time and why?
7. If you overheard students talking about you, what adjectives do you think they would use to describe you as a teacher and why?  
What adjectives would you want to hear them use to describe you as a teacher and why?
8. How is the teaching you do related to the research that you do in your discipline?
9. Describe the best course you ever took and explain why it was stellar.  
Describe the worst course you took and why it was so bad.
10. If someone were to ask you why it is important to study your discipline, what would you say?
11. What metaphor would you choose to describe who you are as a teacher?  
What associations do you make with that metaphor?
12. What metaphor would you use to describe the learning environment that you attempt to foster in the courses you teach?  
What associations do you make with that metaphor?
13. Think about the best and worst teachers you have ever had.  
What did they do that either helped or hindered your learning?

## Statements of Teaching Philosophy

1. What do you consider to be the strong points of this statement of teaching philosophy? Why?
2. What metaphor would you use to describe this teacher? What evidence is there to support your choice?
3. What relationship do you think this teacher has to his or her students? How can you tell that?
4. Would you want to take a class from this teacher? Why or why not?
5. Are there other things you would like to know about this teacher that are not reflected in this statement?
6. Are there any aspects of this statement that are unclear or should be reworked? Give specific examples and explain why.