# Writing Positionality Statements for Teaching and Learning

## What is a positionality statement?

A positionality statement is a way to communicate your intersecting identities to students and colleagues, sharing how who you are informs the *how, what, and why* of your teaching and learning.

## Overall Goals of Writing a Positionality Statement

Writing a positionality statement aims to share how you engage with all aspects of higher education. These include how your values, beliefs, and experiences inform your choice of pedagogy, research (and research methods), and how you build reciprocal relationships with students to create a community of learning in the classroom.

How to Start:

1. Write down your first thoughts:
   1. Describe yourself.
      1. What aspects of your identity are most important to you?
   2. Describe yourself as a teacher:
      1. What is important to you as a teacher?
         1. What is your teaching approach?
         2. Engagement style?
         3. What challenges do you and your students face based on your intersecting identities? How do these show up in the classroom? On campus? In the community?
2. Keep writing and apply critical self-reflection to your thoughts:
   1. How do your beliefs and values in teaching and learning inform your approaches to teaching and learning?
   2. What are your goals in teaching?
3. Frame your positionality statement:
   1. Use “I” statements to situate who you are.
      1. I think….
      2. I strive….
   2. Use positive language.
      1. My goals are….
      2. I commit to….
   3. Acknowledge the challenges and how you are approaching them.
      1. I hope…
      2. I will…