

Philosophy Writing Suggestions

Common Correctable Writing	Strategy	What you might say and What you should say
There, their, and they're	There is a place or condition	Is <u>there</u> an alternative solution?
	Their is a person (note the "i" in their)	I want my students to do <u>their</u> own work.
	They're is a contraction for they are	They're headed for success.
Then and than	Then is a time or when something happens	The team scored and <u>then</u> celebrated.
	Than is something that is comparing or stating a preference	I would rather be me <u>than</u> you.
I believe, I feel, I will	Your philosophy is your beliefs, feelings, and commitment. Think about writing your philosophy without using "I". Write using statements that anyone could embrace.	I believe that all teachers should offer learning opportunities to all students.
		Offering learning opportunities to all students is essential.
Negative versus positive phrasing	Phrase your comments in the positive – state what will happen rather than writing in the negative, if bad happens I will make it better	Many teachers don't respect H&PE programs, but I believe that H&PE are critical to the overall education of my students.
		A quality H&PE program will positively contribute to educating the whole child.
Prepositional phrases	Too many add too many words – they are not bad, but they can be used too frequently	The purpose of our profession is obviously to educate on the fitness and health subjects.
		Our profession's purpose is to provide fitness and health education.
Sentence structure – invert	Take the modifier/descriptor and move it to the end of the sentence.	If you are late, please remember to enter the room quietly.

		Please remember to enter the room quietly if you are late.
Imposing your beliefs and values	Why are your beliefs and values so much better? What makes your right?	I will mold a young mind. I will teach them the right way. I will make sure they know right from wrong.
	You can value H&PE, but be careful about family values, etc.	
My curriculum will address the NJCCCS	The curriculum is designed to help meet the NJCCCS – rather than the NJCCCS is the curriculum	It's your curriculum. The standards are to be met, not serve as the design. They do seem the same, but they are not.
Check to see if you are making sense and does it flow	Have someone read it....does it make sense, is it organized	Another set of eyes doesn't hurt.
Don't use extra words	Review your sentence to see if you are using too many descriptors or qualifiers	The health and physical education curriculum will prepare students to live a healthy, active life as they engage in fitness and physical activities (extra).
		The health and physical education curriculum will prepare students to live a healthy, active life. Or The health and physical education curriculum will prepare students to engage in lifetime fitness and physical activities.