

## **Tips for Making a Teaching Portfolio**

A lot of students might not have a lot of experience making a teaching portfolio and have not thought about it much in the past. So, here are some general tips that could be helpful.

1. Your main document is your teaching statement. Your teaching portfolio should be supporting and complementing your teaching statement.
2. The best teaching statements give the reader some sort of narrative on how you think about teaching balanced with supporting examples of how your philosophy appears in the classroom. The portfolio can be used to expand that narrative by choosing appropriate examples.
3. The most standard way is to use certain worksheets or exams that exemplify your work and connect to your narrative.
4. It is perfectly acceptable to include a part of a worksheet or some other material in case there is one question that highlights some aspects of your teaching statement. That way you can include far more material in your portfolio without exceeding the 10 page limit.
5. Explanations can be very powerful in showing why you have chosen a specific question or worksheet. A helpful explanation also shows how it connects to the rest of the material and in particular to the teaching statement.
6. Although worksheets and exams are the standard ingredients of most teaching portfolios, you can be quite creative with what you want to include in your teaching portfolio. Is there a game you have played in class and you want to outline the rules? Is there a concept you explained in a certain, imaginative way? Did you run your office hours in a way that helped your students? You can use any experience or activity you see fit, as long as it relates to your teaching philosophy.
7. Since this is an application for the TA teaching awards, most of your materials should come from courses you have taught as part of your TA appointment at the University of Illinois.