

Learning Matters “Why I Teach” Submission Guidelines

Why I Teach is a project of Learning Matters, where we showcase personal essays by classroom teachers.

What To Write About

Here are some questions that may help you compose your essay. Obviously, you don't have to answer *all* of these questions – but thinking about them may lead you in a certain direction.

1. How long have you been teaching?
2. How were you trained? Ed school or another method?
3. Why did you initially want to be a teacher?
4. Did you have a particular teacher in your life that inspired you?
5. What was your first day ever in front of a classroom like?
6. How has your approach changed over time?
7. What do you expect from your students?
8. What do you expect from your administration?
9. Have you ever considered doing something else career-wise, and if so, what?
10. What makes an effective teacher?
11. What makes a great teacher?
12. What advice would you give to a brand-new teacher?

Word Count

Please make the entries between 300 and 500 words. They may be edited for length.

Brief Bio

Please include a 2-3 line bio with your name, name of the school you teach at, how long you've been teaching, and any other relevant information you'd like to showcase.

Photo Of Yourself Teaching

If you can provide a photo of yourself working with students (size of photo does not matter), that would be preferable. You can provide a simple headshot if easier. If you have videos or any other media you'd like to include, feel free.

Final Checklist

1. The essay (300-500 words)
2. 2-3 line bio
3. Photo of yourself with students