

**The English Teaching Interview**  
*USI English Department*

The English department teaching interview is comprised of three parts (see checklist on p. 3).

**1) Teaching philosophy**

- a. Describe, in a single-spaced document of 1-2 pages:
  - i. How you see yourself as a future English teacher
  - ii. Goals you have for your classroom and students
  - iii. Specific methodologies and/or teaching strategies for literature and writing
  - iv. Concrete examples that illustrate the above
- b. Two sample philosophies are included on pp. 5-6 of this document.

**2) Teaching presentation**

- a. Describe, in a presentation of 10-15 minutes (visual support is optional):
  - i. Your teaching philosophy (see above)
  - ii. Why you want to be a teacher
  - iii. How your coursework has prepared you for teaching
  - iv. An assessment of your strengths and weaknesses

**3) Interview**

- a. You will be interviewed for 20-30 minutes by a committee of three faculty members: your departmental advisor and two additional full-time faculty members from the English Department (your choice).
- b. You may be asked to elaborate on content from your philosophy or presentation.
- c. Here are some *possible* questions to help you prepare:
  - i. Was there a teacher in middle/high school who inspired you?
  - ii. If you have the chance to teach a literary work outside of the canon, what would it be, and why?
  - iii. Why is it important to study imaginative literature?
  - iv. How would you design a unit/daily lesson on X (poetry, a novel, argumentative writing, etc.)?
  - v. Describe your ideal teaching situation (location, size, grade-level, etc.).
  - vi. What is the most meaningful impact you can have on your students' lives?
  - vii. What have you read lately outside of class?
  - viii. What was a frustrating experience you had as a student in high school? How did you respond to that situation? What did you learn?
  - ix. How are you prepared to deal with the fixed or set curriculum (teaching material you may not like, etc.)?
  - x. What is one book you would love to teach? Why?
- d. At least one of these questions will be asked to address rubric item 5 (p. 4).
  - xi. How would you describe yourself as a leader/role model?
  - xii. What are your plans for the future as an English teacher/professional?
  - xiii. How do you see yourself contributing to your school outside the classroom (extracurriculars, collaboration, leadership, community, etc.)?