

Discussion Prompts for “The Art of Teaching”
Author: Kyle Vitale, PhD, [Yale Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning](#)

Defining the “art” of teaching

How does this essay differentiate the “art” and the “science” of teaching? Do you agree or disagree with these definitions? Where do the “art” and “science” of teaching overlap?

In what ways does your teaching feel more like an “art” than a “science”?

Measuring the art of teaching

What elements of teaching cannot be assigned quantitative measures? Are there other measures that might be assigned instead?

What elements of teaching are immeasurable, but nevertheless visible? How can departments and schools better recognize and incentivize these elements of teaching?

The art of presence

How might you develop your teaching approach in order to make your most honest, authentic self (as a thinker and teacher) available to your students?

What practices and attitudes can we cultivate so that the learning environment benefits more from our shared presence with students in the classroom?

Structural Priorities

How can departments and schools craft expectations for teaching that prioritize effective teaching strategies while freeing instructors to experiment and be themselves in the classroom?

How might you craft a space to dialogue about the art of teaching together?

How might you carve out time to think about your own art of teaching?

Yale’s Poorvu Center [Faculty Resources](https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/FacultyResources) (<https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/FacultyResources>) feature 100+ pages for instructors covering all areas of teaching including course planning, effective classroom strategies, instructional tools, diversity and inclusion, assessment, and the science of learning.