Discussion of “How I Taught the Course” Essay

In 2006, the Evaluation Committee provided this guidance about this portion of the portfolio.

We want to provide additional guidance to faculty as they prepare their portfolios, especially in completing the “How I Taught the Course” essay. This is not intended to be a checklist of things that you should write about, as we want to leave you the freedom of deciding how to best express your personal teaching style. However, we expect an essay that addresses what goes on in your planning, execution and evaluation of your course and which makes explicit the pedagogical rationale and strategy for making teaching decisions. We are not interested in a self-serving essay, but rather prefer an honest explanation of why you made the choices you made, what went well and what went not-so-well, and what you might do differently in the future. Consider this essay an opportunity to “paint a picture” of what goes on in your classroom on a daily basis, because the reviewer cannot be with you in class every day.