

Final Portfolio

For your final exam in English 10, it is time to look back over the year and evaluate your performance in thinking, reading, and writing. How did you perform? What did you do? Where have I seen growth in my work? Where can you continue to improve? The assignment will allow you to take ownership of the growth and the learning you achieved this year. It will help you document your improvement, help you set goals for future learning, and be a way to celebrate one year of your life as an English student. This portfolio will be an expression of you as a writer, a thinker, a student, and a person.



WHAT TO DO:

- Review all essays and materials from the year compiled in various formats – writing folders, blogs, wikis
- Complete all necessary columns and rows of the formal writing folder chart
- Look for patterns or trends in your work
- Decide what kind of growth you did or did not experience
- Select three examples of your writing to put in your portfolio
- Write an introductory letter to your portfolio that lays out what's to come and offers an overall assessment of your year's writing using the school's writing PGR as a guideline (See guidelines on page 3)
- Write a reflective essay for each writing example selected (See guidelines on page 3)
- Write an evaluation of what you learned about human nature, about the world, about yourself and how your work this year played a part in that (See guidelines on page 3)
- Design a creative cover, create a table of contents and organize everything into a professional-looking package
- **Turn it in at the end of class on June ____**

In the weeks before the portfolio is due, you will **meet with me during class time** to review materials you want to put in your portfolio. At this time, I expect you will have reviewed your essays and have choices made about the selections. You must bring evidence of your work to this meeting.

Date and time of appointment with Mr. Miller: _____.

Portfolio Assessment Rubric

Your portfolio represents evidence of the kind of thinking and writing you have done, and it helps me take stock of your work. What you tell me through your reflections and how seriously you take it will directly guide my evaluation and grading. In reviewing your portfolio I will look for the following:

- patterns you notice in your different writing samples from throughout the year
- evidence of critical analysis of your writing
- evidence of initiative and authority in your writing and your role as an active participant in evaluating your work
- a consideration of how your writing is related to what you've learned in English 10

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Exemplary (4)</i>	<i>Proficient (3)</i>	<i>Developing (2)</i>	<i>Emerging (1)</i>
Organization <i>(All materials and work is neatly compiled together.)</i>	Product is visually pleasing and very attractive; all necessary materials are compiled in an easy to follow, neat manner	Materials are put together in the prescribed way with only few problems; product is generally pleasing to eye	Arrangement of materials is a bit sloppy; and/or final product may look unattractive, messy or may be some pieces out of order	Numerous problems with arrangement, order of materials; final product unattractive, detracts from content
Completeness <i>(All required pieces are present and completed.)</i>	Each portfolio component is present and fully completed in portfolio; content expectations clearly met or exceeded	Required portfolio components are mostly complete, however there may be few unsatisfied expectations or minor omissions	May be several incomplete parts and/or gaps in components; noticeable omission of some requirements	Many major requirements or components are incomplete; significant omissions undermine overall quality
Using evidence <i>(Examples from my writing are used as a major part of my reflections.)</i>	Reflections <u>all</u> incorporate and rely on several different examples from the year's writing to fully develop reflections' main ideas	Reflections include some examples from writing, but may lack development or a clearer connection to larger ideas	May be few examples from own writing, or the examples show little more than superficial connection to ideas in reflections	No specific examples evident from year's writing; little success using examples
Reflections <i>(My essays show clear insight into my writing and thinking.)</i>	Reflective essays focus on deep self-evaluation of writing and thinking shown, with emphasis on the language used and qualities of the writing included	My essays include discussion of writing and/or thinking, but may be under-developed; or may need more emphasis on specifics from writing	My essays do little to focus on evaluation of writing and/or thinking, but some examples mentioned with little in-depth analysis evident	My essays do not evaluate or discuss student writing or thinking during the year
Class work <i>(I use time productively and efficiently.)</i>	Class time is spent productively, student comes prepared for meeting with Mr. Miller and takes the lead in the conference	Class time is mostly used to work, may be some distractions; there may be some problems with conference, talking about writing	Class time used for activities other than work; may be problems with conference or it didn't happen	Many problems evident in using class time to work; meeting with Mr. Miller unproductive or it didn't happen

Grade:

Guidelines

Guidelines

All necessary work must be typed on white paper in standard, 12-point font

Introductory letter and PGR evaluation: Here you introduce your portfolio and what is in it. In brief, what do you want the reader of the portfolio to learn about you as a student, a writer, a thinker, and a person? Remember to assess your own writing using the writing PGR. How would you rate yourself as a writer? Connect specific examples from your essays to the criteria described on the writing PGR rubric. What do your three essays show about your writing? How do your chosen essays show your strengths and/or weaknesses? Use your own writing as evidence for the arguments you want to make. Think of this essay as an introduction to the rest of the portfolio, like an introduction paragraph is to a standard essay.

Reflections on the three pieces selected for portfolio: Here you discuss each of the pieces of writing (one can be informal) that you chose for the portfolio. Write a separate reflection for each essay. Discuss the meaning and value of each piece of writing selected. Not all essays have to be chosen because they are your best or favorite. You can select essay(s) as examples of areas you still need to work on. You are the subject of this essay. Give attention to yourself as a writer in general. You may find it helpful to use some of the 13 questions on the Reflection Guide on the next page to guide your reflections.



What you learned this year: Reflect on the experience of the course. This focuses more on the ideas discussed in class, rather than your particular writing. Through our readings and discussions, what have you learned about the world we live in? What literature (short story, novel, film, poetry, essays) did you enjoy the most? What kinds of connections to real life issues and ideas did you discover? What universal truths about people, or about yourself, did you learn from the literature we covered? Explain several significant connections or learnings that you took from our readings. Write a paragraph about each. What knowledge and/or learning will you need in five years? It might be helpful to sift through your informal writing folder as well as your formal writing folder to gather ideas.

Compiling your work: Organize your work and put everything in a binder that allows you to keep things in order. Make sure you include all necessary components:

- ✓ Cover/title page
- ✓ Table of contents
- ✓ Introductory letter
- ✓ What you learned this year
- ✓ Writing folder chart
- ✓ Your three selected pieces
- ✓ Your blog writing reflection
- ✓ Reflections on chosen essays
- ✓ Graphic organizer

Blog reflections: This year we also experimented with a different way to publish and share our writing, using blogs and wikis. What is the best example of thinking and writing you contributed this year? Introduce it and explain how it came about or what your thinking was behind it. What are your thoughts about using blogs and/or wikis as part of your writing? In what ways did it benefit you in your writing? How can it be improved for the future?

Meeting with Mr. Miller: Be prepared to answer some or all of these questions: What 3 pieces are you selecting? What are your reasons? Where have you improved or not as a writer this year? What goals do you have for next year? Point to specific examples from your essays that show your growth and the areas to improve. I will likely ask you questions from the Reflection Guide on the last page. I expect you to do most of the talking in the conference. Highlight parts of your essays to use as examples for the conference and reflections. To receive full credit for the conference, use the attached chart to help organize your thoughts both for the conference and your portfolio.

Note: The numerous questions asked in these guidelines are there to prod and stimulate your thinking about your own work. I expect that, with the help of these questions, your reflections are comprehensive, thorough, and insightful. This is no place for hot air, arguments you don't believe, or flattery.

Some ideas to help me prepare items and ideas for my portfolio...

What I did well in my essays...	Some examples from my writing
What I can work to improve about my writing...	Some examples from my writing
Strong examples from my writing that illustrate criteria on the writing PGR 1) 2) 3)	

Note: Use this as a guideline to help prepare you for the meeting with me and also to begin organizing your ideas for your reflective essays. This should also be included in your portfolio.

Final Portfolio Reflection Guide

Directions: Use this form to help you as you reflect on each of your portfolio selections. Not all questions have to be answered, but use it as a guide to gather your thoughts and ideas. It's possible that some writing examples lend themselves to some of these questions better than others.

1. Why did I select this piece for my portfolio?
2. What was important to me about this piece?
3. Where did I get the idea?
4. How much time did I spend on this piece?
5. What processes did I go through in creating this piece?
6. What problems did I encounter?
7. How did I work through the problems?
8. What kinds of revisions did I make?
9. What have I learned from working on this piece?
10. If I had more time to work on this piece, what else would I do?
11. What do I want the assessor of my portfolio to notice in this piece?