

Learning Portfolio

For our purposes, a learning portfolio is a structured collection of selected work that showcases your achievements. Done correctly, this portfolio should also facilitate reflection on both your academic and your professional goals.

For this class, you will create a Learning Portfolio. By design, this portfolio will answer a number of questions including; “What did you learn in this class?” And “How does this fit into your future?”

Your learning portfolio should explain both what you have learned in terms of technology and how you have learned in terms of technique. Optimally, your portfolio should provide a narrative of what, and how, you learned in this class.

In addition to selected learning artifacts, your portfolio needs to provide enough context to enable a reader to understand how your learning artifacts relate to class, and program, goals. Constructing this context provides you with the opportunity to demonstrate that you understand the relevance and importance of your learning.

Required portfolio components include a home page, module overview pages, selected artifacts, an appropriate menu system and a reflection section.

Home Page

Your home page should do three things. First, it should identify you to the reader. Second, it should state your portfolio’s purpose.

Third, it should guide the reader to your learning artifacts by referring the reader to your menu system. Upon viewing your home page, a reader should immediately be able to identify you, your portfolio’s purpose, and how to move around within your site.

Module Overview Page

On each module overview page, you should explain what you learned. Your explanation should include which assignments worked best for you as well as how your learning related to the class goals.

Within the overview, you should refer the reader to your selected artifacts. You should also identify the techniques that facilitated your learning.

Learning Artifact Selection

For your Learning Portfolio, you should select only your best assignment(s) from each module. In this way, you can think of your Learning Portfolio as a “showcase” for your work. Most students will choose only one, or two, assignments. Remember, our goal here is quality, not quantity.

Learning Artifact Format

For each of your learning artifacts (assignments), you should use an open format. In terms of speed and flexibility, it is optimum to use html. Though, you may also use pdf, or similar, open format.

Learning Narrative

Done correctly, your portfolio will provide a structured learning narrative concerning your class experiences. It will also provide tangible evidence of your professional growth. Specifically, better portfolios will reflect an understanding of the learning and the learning processes employed in class.

Site Host

If you already have access to a Hostgator account, you are welcome to use that for this portfolio. If you don't, you are welcome to use a free Google Site. Either way, be sure to register your portfolio by entering the appropriate information on the class home page.

Unless otherwise communicated to the instructor, the home page of your portfolio will be assumed to be the home page of the domain that you registered. Though, it is also acceptable to have a prominent link to your portfolio from your home page.

Menu System

Since the menu system is how a reader navigates your portfolio, it is a critical component. An appropriate menu system will be simple, complete, and intuitive. It will also have no dead links. From every page, it should offer the opportunity to return to the home page.

Reflections Section

Here you are asked to think about what was significant about your class experience. You may find the following questions useful.

- What did you learn?
- What learning techniques worked best for you?
- How will what you have learned help you become a better student or professional?
- If more time was available, what class topic would you like to continue learning?
- If you had more time, how would you make your portfolio better?

It is expected that your reflection section will address some of these questions. Though, you are welcome to include other reflections as well.

Review

Your home page should accomplish three things.

- 1) Welcome visitors to your site.
- 2) Explain the purpose of your site. That is, it explains that your site serves as a learning portfolio.

3) Direct the viewer to learn more about your work by choosing one of the links from your menu.

Be sure that your portfolio contains all the required components:

- Home page
- Module overview pages
- Selected artifacts
- Appropriate menu system
- Reflection section.

Remember that the purpose of your Learning Portfolio is to “showcase” what you learned in class. In that way, it should provide a narrative concerning your learning experiences. It is a record that you can build on as you take more courses. It also provides evidence of your learning that you can share with others such as potential employers.

You can find many relevant online references regarding site creation and related topics. The following ‘Selected Links’ section lists several.

Selected Links

My Learning & Class Portfolio

<http://faculty.washington.edu/krumme/students/portfolio.html>

How to Create a Personal Learning Portfolio

<http://onlinelearninginsights.wordpress.com/2013/01/30/why-students-need-personal-learning-portfolios-more-than-we-do/>

Understanding Assignments

<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/resources/handouts-demos/writing-the-paper/understanding-assignments>

HostGator Tutorials

<http://www.hostgator.com/tutorials>

HostGator Support cPanel Articles and Tutorials

<http://support.hostgator.com/articles/cpanel/cpanel-video-tutorials>