

Final Portfolio Assignment

Your portfolio assignment has 4 parts. You must complete ALL parts to receive credit for this assignment.

PART 1: REFLECTING ON YOUR WRITING (1-2 double spaced pages)

This assignment asks you to reflect on what you've accomplished this semester and asks you to consider what you might take from this class into your life beyond freshman writing—into your future classes, into your career, and into your life as a responsible American (and world) citizen.

The first task of this assignment is to look over your work from the semester in order to abstract out at least two skills or practices you believe will be **useful** in future classes, in future writing (of all kinds), into your career, and into your life as a responsible American (and world) citizen.

Possible Skills/Practices Include (but are not limited to):

brainstorming, developing ideas, making connections, analyzing arguments, forming an argument, reading texts closely, working with quotation, supporting an argument, giving feedback to your peers, meeting deadlines, managing your time, using technology—whatever.

Identify and explain the usefulness of those two skills by connecting the work you've done in this class with your future classes, career, or in life.

For example, you might argue that as a business analyst you will need to make and support an argument about what direction a business should take. Or, as an architecture major, you will need to balance an extraordinary workload which you practiced through managing drafting and revision. Or, in your final project for a sociology class this semester you used quotation in ways similar to what you learned in class. Or whatever. "I learned nothing of value in this class" is also a legitimate argument, as long as you **support it** in the context of your career. For example, you plan on being a visual artist and you found no skills in this class close to the skills needed for that field. You may want to do minor research on the key skills of your chosen profession; if you do, be sure to use correct citation and include a works cited page. Ultimately, this assignment is asking for the same skills as the papers for this class: take a position and support it with specific evidence.

PART 2: RESPONSE (2 double spaced pages)

Respond to ONE of the following:

- What is the connection between critical thinking and writing?
- What makes good writing and what makes someone a good writer?
- How is writing part of a "larger conversation"? (Not Appiah's version of conversation)
- Read a few of these editorials and blog posts about the "death of humanities" (and ultimately, the death of writing). Do you agree? Disagree? Something in between? (just respond, no citation or quotes needed)
 - <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/01/06/will-the-humanities-save-us/http://chronicle.com/blogs/brainstorm/are-the-humanities-dead-or-are-academic-programs-just-too-narrow/22454>
 - (you may Google search and find your own article/s)

PART 3: YOUR BEST WORK

Look back over ALL of the **planning and pre-writing** assignments you've completed this semester. Identify the **FOUR** assignments that you think best represent your work in developing ideas, critical thinking, or planning.

In a short discussion of 1-2 pages, explain why these assignments represent your best work **AND** discuss how you might take 1 or 2 of the "practices" into your future classes, your career, and your life as a responsible American (& world) citizen.

PART 4: THE REVISION PROJECT

This Revision Project (along with the Portfolio Assignment) is a chance for you to apply your skills with critical thinking to your own writing—a kind of critical thinking about your critical thinking. Revision, in this sense, is not editing or fixing your writing but editing, fixing, expanding, revisiting, and changing the *thinking* behind the paper as a whole. To frame this project of rethinking, you may do any/all of the following:

1. **Combine two papers.**
2. **Select one of your previous papers and revise it by incorporating two outside sources.** The source might introduce terms / concepts / ideas that you can use to complicate one of your earlier papers or it might provide specific examples you can connect to your ideas in the earlier paper. Research greatly increases the risk of accidental plagiarism.
3. **Select one of your previous papers and rewrite it taking the opposite stance of your original argument.** The goal here is to practice a kind of rhetorical flexibility, an understanding that for every position you take there is an opposite and legitimate position. Adopting that alternative position provides further practice in critical thinking and working with texts to support an argument; it also provides a new perspective on your original argument, perhaps leading to new thinking.
4. **Work with a partner to co-author a revision using work previously written by BOTH coauthors.** You will be asked to explain your contributions.

Requirements

- Your revisions should be global/conceptual and local. (at least 50% revision)
- Papers should be 6-7 pages long.
- All papers should conform to proper MLA style. Be sure to properly cite all Web or outside sources.
- All drafts should be double spaced, printed, and proofread for error. Your name should appear on the first page and in the header of every page along with the page number.
- You must submit your original paper or papers along with the revision. Include a separate sheet with a brief explanation that outlines your approach to the revision and describes what was revised.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

All documents must be printed and placed in a paper pocket folder. In the left pocket, include Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3. In the right pocket, please include Part 4. Please CLEARLY identify all documents.

This portfolio is due during our final period on Friday, December 3 at 1:15 PM. The portfolio will be turned in as a hard copy.

CHECKLIST FOR PORTFOLIO SUBMISSION

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Part 1: Reflecting on Your Writing | Part 4: The Revision Project, which includes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Part 2: Response | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Part 3: Your Best Work, which includes | <input type="checkbox"/> original paper(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> four planning assignments | <input type="checkbox"/> revised paper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> short response | <input type="checkbox"/> brief discussion of revisions |