

The Digital Portfolio and Self-Assessment Essay

The Digital Portfolio and Final Self-Assessment Essay are in many ways the most important documents that you'll create for this class. Assembling the Digital Portfolio will help you to see your progress as a writer over the course of the semester, and the Final Self-Assessment Essay will give you the chance to evaluate that work based on your own criteria as well as the course learning objectives.

The Digital Portfolio

The Digital Portfolio should include, at a minimum, the Self-Assessment Essay; final drafts (revised based on instructor feedback) of your Language and Literacy Essay, Researched Exploratory Essay, and Critical Analysis Essay; plus any additional documents (or screenshots/ portions of documents) you composed this semester that help you demonstrate the extent to which you've met the course learning objectives and developed your understanding of writing and our course topic.

So what sorts of "additional documents" might you include? Consider including earlier drafts of essays, examples from homework, peer reviews, etc. Or, you may want to include copies of your annotations of course texts or copies of the notes you took while reading to demonstrate that you have developed strategies for critical reading. Use this same approach for all of the Course Learning Goals. (Be mindful that the documents you choose to include in your Portfolio should be referenced in your Final Self-Assessment Essay, which is further explained below. You will describe the documents, and their significance, in your essay. Thus, you'll need to be very choosy in selecting which documents best represent your learning and development as a writer and be ready to refer to and analyze them in the Self-Assessment Essay.)

The portfolio will be composed on a WordPress site and housed securely on [CUNY Academic Commons](#), a password-protected CUNY server. It will be read by your instructors, some members of the class, and other CCNY faculty and administrators. If you would like to opt out of creating a WordPress site, please make a Portfolio in Blackboard. While the arrangement of the Portfolio is up to you, it should be easy to navigate. As with any Web site, you want to be able to find what you're looking for without any interference. This might mean scanning handwritten notes, taking screenshots of annotated Web sites, and turning your essays into .PDFs or Web texts.

The Self-Assessment Essay

The Self-Assessment Essay, which will serve as an introduction to your Portfolio, is a kind of research paper. Your development as a writer is the subject and your work this semester is your evidence. Thus, your task is to demonstrate, with evidence, how you've developed as a writer and thinker this semester. Evidence may come in the form of a quote or screenshot of your work or through your retelling of a central learning moment. Your cover letters, homework assignments, and in-class reflections should serve as valuable sources of information and provide you with quote-worthy passages. And you should include in your Portfolio any relevant items that you reference in your Self-Assessment Essay.

This essay answers this question: *To what extent have I achieved the course learning objectives this semester?* Importantly, then, your essay should quote and respond to **each** of our course learning objectives below. That said, your essay should not be organized in the bulleted format in which the objectives are presented. Here are the Course Learning Objectives you will address in your essay:

Students will

1. Recognize the role of language attitudes and standards in empowering, oppressing, and hierarchizing languages and their users, and be open to communicating across different languages and cultures.
2. Explore and analyze, in writing and reading, a variety of genres and rhetorical situations.
3. Develop strategies for reading, drafting, collaborating, revising, and editing.
4. Recognize and practice key rhetorical terms and strategies when engaged in writing situations.
5. Engage in the collaborative and social aspects of writing processes.
6. Understand and use print and digital technologies to address a range of audiences.
7. Locate research sources (including academic journal articles, magazine and newspaper articles) in the library's databases or archives and on the Internet and evaluate them for credibility, accuracy, timeliness, and bias.
8. Compose texts that integrate your stance with appropriate sources using strategies such as summary, critical analysis, interpretation, synthesis, and argumentation.
9. Practice systematic application of citation conventions.

Your Self-Assessment Essay should be **3-4 pages** (12-point font, 1-inch margins, double spaced) plus any images you choose to include. It will *not* be evaluated on whether or not you have achieved the course goals, but on *how well you demonstrate your understanding* of the goals that you have achieved and your thoughts about the goals that you have not achieved. Please use **MLA citation** within the body of your essay and on a **Works Cited** page as needed. Compose a relative and **inviting title** for your essay. As always, you are encouraged to personalize the delivery of your essay as you see fit. Thus, you decide the order, tone, style, and language you'll craft in order to best reach your audience. You're welcome to **draw on your "native," "home," or "other" languages**, literacies, and ways of being as you so choose.

Due dates:

- A first full draft of the self-assessment essay is due for peer review on **DAY, MONTH DATE.**
- A first full draft of your WordPress site is due **DAY, MONTH DATE.**
- Your final version of the digital portfolio (with self-assessment essay) is due **DAY, MONTH DATE.**

Evaluation Criteria for the Portfolio and Final-Assessment Essay

1. How effective is your *Final-Assessment Essay* in

- **quoting and addressing** all of the course learning objectives (even those that you feel we did not spend enough time working on);
- **providing evidence** (in the form of quoting your own writing and/or retelling specific learning moments) that you have developed as a writer;
- **identifying** (if relevant) any areas in which you have not progressed (e.g., because we didn't spend enough time with them or you feel that you had a strong start in those areas)?

3. How effectively and sufficiently have you **revised and edited** your three major essays?

4. How effective is your *Digital Portfolio* in

- **presenting** the content so that it is easy to navigate and appropriate for digital audiences;
- **maintaining** stylistic consistency from one page to the next;
- **using** color and contrast to make things simple for digital audiences;
- **using** font and page layout to create a neat, easy-to-read text?

5. Were all general **requirements** for length and due dates met?