

Portfolio Writing

Rhetoric and composition courses are designed to help students become thinkers and writers. To achieve that end most composition courses include reading assignments and writing assignments. You will keep a writing portfolio this semester that will help you to think more critically and to write more effectively. The portfolio will be divided into four sections, each section correlating with a major essay assignment. To help you prepare for each major essay assignment, I will assign readings, questions to help you read more closely, and writing prompts to help you practice your writing skills.

Evaluating the portfolio

Your answers to the questions about the readings and your paragraph responses will be included in a portfolio that will accompany the final draft of each major essay. Each portfolio section will be graded according to:

- **Completeness:**
 - short in-class writings
 - answers to all the reading questions
 - assigned paragraph responses to the readings
 - rough drafts of each essay
 - peer review sheets for each essay
 - final draft of each major essay
 - grammar quizzes or other assigned exercises

- **engagement** (demonstrated attempt to establish credibility in your writing with examples and details)

- **insight** (serendipity – the *je ne sais quoi* of thoughtful writing and reading)

Assigning the portfolio grade

A: All work completed and included in the portfolio, writing prompts demonstrating originality of thought and insight

B: All work completed and included in the portfolio, writing prompts showing some insight and originality, very little hastily composed work demonstrating lack of engagement

C: All work completed and included in the portfolio, writing prompts indicating little engagement in the assignment, perhaps some confusion over requirements but clear attempts to perform

D-F: incomplete work, little engagement in what is included

At the end of the semester, you will turn in your portfolio, with all four sections, for review and evaluation of your work in the course.