The Learning Portfolio

Reflective Practice for Improving Student Learning

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The Learning Portfolio: What Is It?

- A flexible, evidence-based process that combines reflection and documentation.
- A way of engaging students in ongoing, reflective, and collaborative analysis of learning.
- A means of focusing on purposeful, selective outcomes for both improving and assessing learning.

-Adapted from *The Learning Portfolio* (Anker, 2004; Jossey-Bass, 2009)
The Learning Portfolio
Reflection + Documentation + Mentoring = Learning!
SUCCESSFUL USES OF LEARNING PORTFOLIOS

Assessment  
Application  
Preparation  
Development
Role of Reflection in "Deep" or "Significant" Learning


Surface Knowledge

Reflection
Experience
(Active Learning)

Deep or Significant Learning
Complexity and difficulty are different. Complexity establishes the level of thought; difficulty determines the amount of effort within each level.

-From David A. Sousa, *How the Brain Learns*, 2nd ed. (Corwin, 2001)
What have you learned? How do you know you have learned? What have you discovered about your learning preferences and habits?

Under what conditions do you learn best? Least?

What are the best examples of your work for this project? The weakest? Why?

What difference has learning made in your personal development? Have you applied your learning?

What has been most meaningful or surprising about the portfolio process?

Do you have a continual plan for learning?

Why are you learning?
Self-Assessment exercises help you examine who you are and where you are headed. Start with one listed below or come up with your own. After completing an exercise, reflect on what you have learned about yourself and how you might apply what you have learned to your goals and plans. You may want to place the exercise and your responses in your portfolio or maybe just your reflection. Since you and your portfolio are ever changing, you are encouraged to revisit the self-assessment stage periodically.

- Ask yourself WHY?
- What have you done, what did you learn and how will you grow?

**Ask yourself WHY?**

Why? Getting to where you are right now was based on a series of choices. What was your rationale for making one decision or choice over another? What were the consequences of those decisions?

1. Why did you decide to go to college?
2. Why did you decide to come to Albion College?
3. Why did you decide (or have you not yet decided) to pursue a particular major, concentration or discipline?
4. Why did you select the courses in which you are currently enrolled?
5. Why did you join your organizations, clubs, and groups?
Introduction to ePortfolio

Congratulations you are starting your ePortfolio! Your ePortfolio will be a unique presentation of your educational career at LaGuardia as you build your website over the next few semesters. The ePortfolio is a unique tool that will allow you to merge your personal and professional goals, putting your education into a larger context.

The first step in building an ePortfolio is to explore how other students have created their ePortfolios. Once you get a sense of what an ePortfolio can look like, and the kind of information they usually provide, you are ready to begin.

A good next step is collecting materials from your classes. You will want to create a virtual archive (an online file cabinet) of materials that you can later select as samples of your coursework in your ePortfolio.

Next, you will want to think about your educational past, present and future. You will want to reflect on the meaningfulness of the work that you have selected to display.

How can you use class projects such as papers and presentations to show what you are learning?
LeBow College of Business

My LIFEfolio

Life's Learning Experienced Online
Life is full of experiences. Your first words. Your favorite book. Your admission into Drexel University. These moments - some of the most important events in your lifetime - build upon each other to expand your perspective about the world around you.

Your undergraduate career at Drexel's LeBow College of Business highlights another rewarding and pivotal journey. The knowledge you will gain in your four or five years at Drexel will be enormous. LeBow College helps you keep a living document of this knowledge with My LIFEfolio (LeBow Integrated Focused Experience), a Web-based portfolio designed to be an essential resource throughout your academic and professional careers.

Beginning in your freshman year, My LIFEfolio enables you to connect your introductory course material to upper level classes building integrated academic experience as you progress through the LeBow curriculum. The four electronic portfolios that comprise My LIFEfolio - business concentration, career, writing and quantitative reasoning - allow you to store information, reflect on what you have learned, and understand how that knowledge has impacted your beliefs, attitudes and personal development.

My LIFEfolio - a critical tool for students to utilize at Drexel.
The Professional Portfolio

What is Portfolio?

- A portfolio is a collection of materials (documents, papers, pictures, certificates, letters, work samples, and audio/video taped performances) assembled to demonstrate to others what you have done and/or are able to do
- Your portfolio contains documents such as your resume, statements, letters, pictures, and records that “showcase” your skills and abilities
- It states your learning goals, action planning, reflections and work samples that document progress
- It can contain curricular and extra-curricular learning experiences through your university experience

Click here for a sample portfolio.

Why Do I Need a Portfolio?

- Provides a valuable learning experience
- Helps you to set your goals and evaluate how you are doing
- Excellent for future use (job interviews, promotions etc.)
Welcome to eFolioMinnesota™, a Web-based portfolio designed to help you create a living showcase of your education, career, and personal achievements.

All Minnesota residents, including students and educators affiliated with Minnesota schools and people working in the state of Minnesota, can use eFolioMinnesota to reach their career and education goals.

eFolioMinnesota is a free resource for Minnesota residents, students, and workers provided by the Minnesota State Colleges and University system.

eFolio software is now available to institutions and organizations outside of Minnesota. To learn more about licensing options visit eFolioWorld.

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The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System is an equal opportunity employer and educator.
What are Portfolios?

Electronic portfolios can help facilitate students' reflection on their own learning. Portfolios include posting artifacts in any form (written, audio, visual, video, etc.) to highlight academic work of the student. In addition, reflections are posted in relation to each artifact to help the student attain more awareness of the learning strategies and needs they have to complete their studies. Some portfolios may include an academic planning piece to help academic advisors guide students through their learning environment. Community involvement, resumes, and collections of evidence and reflections of learning all may be included in portfolios. The use of an electronic portfolio has been proven to lead to better learning outcomes in specific areas of study. Portfolios are an ongoing learning record of a particular student’s academic learning progress.

iFolio is a learning portfolio, a ‘rich, flexible document that engages students in continuous, thoughtful analysis of their learning’ (Zubizaretta, 2004). First, students place coursework, or artifacts, into iFolio to illustrate their academic accomplishments. Students then reflect on artifacts and courses to demonstrate their grasp of learning objectives. Instructors utilize artifacts and reflections to assess their teaching strategies. This assessment instrument will assist with future accreditation efforts as well as guide departments as they evaluate their programs.

Ask yourself these four questions:

How do you encourage student reflection?
How do you fulfill your department’s programmatic goals?
How do you shape students’ academic paths?
How do you prepare students for their future?

Students who are asked to create a portfolio through the University portfolio system should follow all departmental guidelines as outlined by their advisor and instructors.
Electronic Portfolio
(Sara J. Bryant, St. Olaf College)
http://stolaf.edu/depts/cis/webcommunity.htm
How Does LP Enhance Learning?

- Power of Reflection
- Collaborative Learning
- Creative Assessment
- Learning Styles

- Writing = Learning
- Selectivity, Judgment, and Responsibility
- Risk and Challenge
- Critical Thinking

Can you think of other ways?
Tips for Time and Stress

- Slow and small
- Streamline feedback
- Different, not more
- Use technology
- Rubrics
- Rotate feedback groups
- Be explicit, organized
- Double duty
Learning Portfolio benefits.

- Student learning (deep, lasting, transformative)
- Alumnae
- Culture of reflection & mindful, integrative learning
- Assessment
  - Individual
  - Dept./Program
  - Institution...Accreditation!