

UW SOUL ~ Portfolios

*University of Washington Study of Undergraduate Learning
Office of Educational Assessment*

SPRING 2000

1. Writing: Two items

Review the papers that you have written in the last year in **all** the courses you took that assigned papers. Choose two pieces of writing for the portfolio: the one that you consider your best and the one you think is the worst. Staple the assignments that go with them to each paper. If possible, use clean copies of your papers--that is, do not include your teacher's comments or grades but print out clean versions for us. Label the two papers "best" and "worst."

If you only wrote one paper this year, please put that in the portfolio and label it "only paper."

If you did not write any papers this year, please write us a note to that effect and include it in the portfolio.

2. Complex Thinking: One item

Look over the work you have done in all your classes. Select the one piece of work that represents the most complex or demanding thinking that you have done this year.

This can be anything--a math problem, a paper (even one that you have already included as your "best" or "worst"), a project, a drawing, a lab, a case study, a design, a photograph--whatever you did that you felt required the most complex thinking. Add that piece to your portfolio and a written copy of the assignment that goes with it. Please label the item "Complex Thinking" (Photographic representations, drawings, and photocopies are fine.)

3. Reflective Essay: One item, 3-5 pages long, typed and double-spaced.

Your next step is to write a reflective essay. Look over the items you have included in your portfolio, and then write a reflective essay that explains and defends what you chose to include.

- ◆ Focus first on your best and worst pieces of writing. After reviewing those papers, write an essay that defends your choices. Use specific references to the papers to support your reasons for choosing them. We want to learn why you think particular pieces are good or bad, and what you think you learned or did not learn from writing them. (2-4 pages)
- ◆ Next, discuss the "complex thinking" assignment you included. Let us know what was complex about the thinking that was required, pointing to areas in the work you've included that demonstrate that kind of thinking. (1-2 pages)
- ◆ Finally, if there is anything else you would like to tell us about your experience here, please feel free to do so in this essay. (1 page or more)

SPRING 2001

1. Writing: One item

Review the papers that you have written in the last year in **all** the courses you took that assigned papers. Choose the one piece of writing that you consider the best paper you produced all year. Staple the assignment that goes with it to that paper. If possible, use a clean copy of your paper—that is, do not include your teacher's comments or grade but print out a clean version for us. Label the paper "best paper." If you only wrote one paper this year, please put that in the portfolio and label it "only paper." If you did not write any papers this year, please write us a note to that effect and include it in the portfolio.

2. Complex Thinking: One item

Look over the work you have done in all your classes. Select the one piece of work that represents the most complex or demanding thinking that you have done this year.

This can be anything--a math problem, a paper (even the one that you have already included as your "best"), a project, a drawing, a lab, a case study, a design, a photograph--whatever you did that you felt required the most complex thinking. Add that piece to your portfolio and a written copy of the assignment that goes with it. Please label the item "Complex Thinking" (Photographic representations, drawings, and photocopies are fine.)

3. Information Literacy: One item

Please select one piece of work for which you had to do library and/or internet research. This could be a paper, a project, a performance—anything that you felt was demanding that required information research. Please give us that piece of work however you can. If it was a paper, give us a copy of the paper. If it was a presentation, give us a disk, your notes, or a description of it. If it was a performance, describe it. Include or attach the assignment (or your summary of what the assignment was, if necessary), label the piece "Information Literacy" and add it to your portfolio. If you did not do any library and/or internet research this year, please write us a note to that effect and include it in the portfolio.

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MAY INCLUDE AN ITEM THAT REPRESENTS MORE THAN ONE CATEGORY.

4. Reflective Essay: One item, 3-5 pages long, typed and double-spaced.

Your next step is to write a reflective essay. Look over the items you have included in your portfolio, and then write a reflective essay that explains and defends what you chose to include.

- ◆ Focus first on your best piece of writing. After reviewing it, write a brief essay that defends your choice. Why do you consider this to be your best piece of writing? Use specific examples from the paper to support your reasons for choosing it. Tell us why you think the paper is good, and what you think you learned or did not learn from writing them. (1-2 pages)
- ◆ Next, discuss the "complex thinking" assignment you included. Let us know what was complex about the thinking that was required, pointing to areas in the work you've included that demonstrate that kind of thinking. (1-2 pages)
- ◆ Third, look at the document that demonstrates information literacy. Try to remember the process you used to research and write that paper. Then write a reflection on that process, answering the following questions: What did you do first? What did you do next and so on? What was hard about the research? What was easy? What use did you make of technology to produce the piece you've included. What did you learn by going through that process? (1-2 pages)
- ◆ Finally, if there is anything else you would like to tell us about your experience here, please feel free to do so in this essay. (1 page or more)

SPRING 2002

1. Writing: One item

Review the papers that you have written in the last year in **all** the courses you took that assigned papers. Choose the one piece of writing that you consider the best paper you produced all year. Staple the assignment that goes with it to that paper. If possible, use a clean copy of your paper—that is, do not include your teacher's comments or grade but print out a clean version for us. Label the paper "best paper." If you only wrote one paper this year, please put that in the portfolio and label it "only paper." If you did not write any papers this year, please write us a note to that effect and include it in the portfolio.

2. Complex Thinking: One item

Look over the work you have done in all your classes. Select the one piece of work that represents the most complex or demanding thinking that you have done this year. This can be anything—a math problem, a paper (even the one that you have already included as your "best"), a project, a drawing, a lab, a case study, a design, a photograph--whatever you did that you felt required the most complex thinking. Add that piece to your portfolio and a written copy of the assignment that goes with it. Please label the item "Complex Thinking" (Photographic representations, drawings, and photocopies are fine.)

3. Quantitative Reasoning: One item

Please include the piece of work that represents the most rigorous quantitative reasoning you've done at any time in your three years at the UW. We are defining quantitative reasoning as the use of numbers or mathematical symbols to solve problems, make arguments, design or create something new, find answers, or analyze something. This could be a set of math problems, a section of a paper, an engineering design, an art project—anything that stretched you in terms of quantitative reasoning. Include or attach the assignment (or your summary of what the assignment was, if necessary). Please label the piece "Quantitative Reasoning," write down the course it was produced for and your major, and add it to your portfolio. If you have done no quantitative reasoning at the UW, please write us a note to that effect and include it in the portfolio.

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MAY INCLUDE AN ITEM THAT REPRESENTS MORE THAN ONE CATEGORY.

4. Reflective Essay: One item, 3-5 pages long, typed and double-spaced.

Your next step is to write a reflective essay. Look over the items you have included in your portfolio, and then write a reflective essay that explains and defends what you chose to include.

- ◆ Focus first on your best piece of writing. After reviewing it, write a brief essay that defends your choice. Why do you consider this to be your best piece of writing? Use specific examples from the paper to support your reasons for choosing it. Tell us why you think the paper is good, and what you think you learned or did not learn from writing it. (1-2 pages)
- ◆ Next, discuss the "complex thinking" assignment you included. Let us know what was complex about the thinking that was required, pointing to areas in the work you've included that demonstrate that kind of thinking. (1-2 pages)
- ◆ Third, look at the document that demonstrates quantitative reasoning. Write a reflection that discusses what you had to do to complete the assignment and why you consider this to be the most challenging or rigorous quantitative reasoning you have done here. (1 page)
- ◆ Finally, if there is anything else you would like to tell us about your experience here, please feel free to do so in this essay. (1 page or more)

SPRING 2003

1. Writing: Two items

- ◆ Review the papers that you have written in the last two years in all the courses you took that assigned papers. Then review the papers that you wrote in your first and second years here. Choose two pieces of writing for the portfolio: an early paper and one you have written recently. You'll be writing part of your reflective essay on what these two papers say about your learning (see below).
- ◆ Staple the assignments that go with them to each paper.
- ◆ If possible, use clean copies of your papers--that is, do not include your teacher's comments or grades but print out clean versions for us. Label the two papers "Early" and "Late," making sure they include the date you wrote them and the course they were written for.
- ◆ If you only wrote one paper this year, please put that in the portfolio and label it "only paper."
- ◆ If you did not write any papers this year, please write us a note to that effect and include it in the portfolio.

2. Complex Thinking: One item

Look over the work you have done this past year in all your classes. Select the one piece of work that represents the most complex or demanding thinking that you have done this year.

This can be anything--a math problem, a paper (even the one that you have already included as your "best"), a project, a drawing, a lab, a case study, a design, a photograph--whatever you did that you felt required the most complex thinking. Add that piece to your portfolio and a written copy of the assignment that goes with it. Please label the item "Complex Thinking" (Photographic representations, drawings, and photocopies are fine.)

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MAY INCLUDE AN ITEM THAT REPRESENTS MORE THAN ONE CATEGORY.

3. Reflective Essay: One item, 4-5 pages long, typed and double-spaced.

Your next step is to write a reflective essay. Look over the items you have included in your portfolio, and then write a reflective essay that explains and defends what you chose to include.

- ◆ Focus first on the "early" and "late" pieces of writing you have included. How are these two pieces different? What do they say about your learning? Please include some discussion of what the papers show about your ability to write, find and/or use information, and think critically. Your purpose here is to describe what story those two pieces of writing tell about your learning. (2 pages)
- ◆ Next, discuss the "complex thinking" assignment you included. Let us know what was complex about the thinking that was required, pointing to areas in the work you've included that demonstrate that kind of thinking. (1-2 pages)
- ◆ Finally, write me a note about your four years at the UW. What did you like about it? What did you dislike? What is the most important thing you learned? This note can say whatever you want it to say about your experience here. (1 page or more)