

WAC 101 Final Course Portfolio

An important component of your learning this semester is reflecting critically on your writing practices and beliefs. Examining (and critiquing) these practices and beliefs can help you to articulate precisely what you know about writing, to describe how you have grown in your knowledge and ability, and to identify your strengths and weaknesses. By the end of this term you will have generated a significant amount of text--in responses, class activities, formal papers, and peer reviews--and while it is certainly a laudable accomplishment just to have completed these assignments, it is arguably even more important to recognize that your development as a writer does not stop when we leave this course for good. The final course portfolio, then, is an opportunity for you to gain a deeper, more personal understanding of yourself as a writer and to begin carving out a path for your continued growth.

Your assignment:

Using supporting evidence drawn from your own writing this semester, write a reflective essay in which you tell what you have learned throughout the term. To successfully complete this assignment, you must cite your own writing. Additionally, you should include, after your reflection, each piece of writing that you cite in your essay. You can choose to revise these pieces of writing as a way to support your reflective essay.

What Is a Portfolio? What Is It For?

A portfolio is a compilation of work that has been put together for a specific purpose. Our purposes in WAC 101 include:

- demonstrating your achievements as a writer and critical thinker during your first semester at ASU;
- enabling evaluation of your work as a writer and critical thinker; and
- evaluating your level of preparedness to continue in more advanced writing and critical-thinking projects as you continue your education.

Strong portfolios are built through a process of *collection*, *selection*, and *reflection*. In other words, the portfolio is more than just a showcase of your work; it is a location in which you make judgments about how best to present yourself as an academic writer, and in which you provide reflective writing that helps you and your readers better understand how the portfolio was developed.

(adapted from Spelman College's requirements for First-Year writing students)

Requirements

- The reflective essay must be at least two pages long. Writing any less than two full pages will not allow for the depth of reflection this essay requires.
- The reflective essay should be doubled spaced with one-inch margins, in 12-point Times New Roman, and have an MLA format header (no title page, 4 line heading on upper left of first page, last name/page # in upper right of each page)
- Each selection of writing that you choose should clearly identify the assignment from which you selected the work (e.g., WP One Final Draft, In-class Freewriting on Writing Process, Homework Response to Pope's Article, etc.)
- Each selection of writing referenced in the reflective essay must be included in the portfolio. Please paste these selections in the same document as your reflection
- You may revise any piece of writing before including it in the portfolio.

Grading Criteria

- Essay produces meaningful reflection on the semester and the writer's progress during the course
- Draws specific details and examples from writing completed for this course
- Examples chosen effectively support the claims that the writer makes in the reflective essay
- Audience appropriate language, subject, tone, formatting; in short, writer demonstrates audience awareness and attempts to meet expected conventions (including citation and documentation of sources and editing/proofreading of final draft)