**The SJSU Writing Program Self-Reflection Essay and ePortfolio**

All students completing ENGL 1A will submit a self-reflection essay and portfolio as a final assessment exercise for the course. Your portfolio allows you to show writing program faculty the progress you have made, as a reader and writer, to accomplish specific course learning objectives.

Your portfolio will feature four elements—two which you have already completed and two which you will produce specifically for this assignment—to help demonstrate your arc of development.

The two elements **you’ve already produced** are the following samples of your writing:

1. The **CRITICAL ESSAY\*** from your Reflection on College Writing (completed during the summer before you enrolled and located in Canvas), and
2. One additional **MAJOR ASSIGNMENT** produced during your current writing course (this may be a traditional essay or a multimodal project.

These essays/projects will be the samples of work in your ePortfolio.

The two elements **you will produce** for the ePortfolio are:

1. A **SELF-REFLECTION ESSAY** (approximately 500-600 words) addressed to an audience of Writing Program teachers arguing that you have developed your ability to understand the program learning goals and have developed strategies for working toward them.
2. An **APPENDIX OF EVIDENCE** to describe the work you have done in your writing course that best evidences the claims your essay makes about your learning and your writing process as you produced the sample essays.

Your goal is to convince your readers (writing faculty) that you have gained insight into what makes writing effective and that you’ve begun to develop strategies for producing effective texts.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Self-Reflection Essay Prompt** | Write a Self-Reflection essay that helps your two faculty readers appreciate your progress in understanding and developing strategies to address the following learning objective:  GELO #4: Student shall demonstrate the ability to integrate their ideas and those of others by explaining, analyzing, developing, and criticizing ideas effectively in several genres.  Your Self-Reflection essay will draw on the sample essays in your portfolio and the work you compiled in your Appendix of Evidence to define and illustrate the progress you have made. You should address both the work you have done to develop an effective writing process and the work you have done to think and write rhetorically—that is, with an awareness of the rhetorical features of the text.  **DUE: Submit to Canvas by midnight the day before your final exam**  **Sec 31: Dec 15th ; Sec 33: Dec 19th; Sec 08: Dec 13th ; Sec 44: Dec 13th** |

**\*In the event that you did not take the Reflection on College Writing, you may substitute another writing assignment from a previous writing class at SJSU or from the beginning of the course for which you’re producing this portfolio.**

**Preparing an Appendix of Evidence**

Your appendix of evidence can include writing you’ve done throughout you college career, beginning as early as your Reflection on College Writing and carrying up through the end of the course you’re writing your portfolio for. For the Appendix of Evidence,you will choose the best evidence to demonstrate your progress.You will make critical selections about what to include in the appendix that can support the argument you’re making in the self-reflection. [Note: You do not have to include all your assignments. This is an exercise in making critical choices!]

To assess your progress, your audience needs to know two things: where you started and how far you have come. The two sample essays in your portfolio represent the earliest writing you did—all the way back in the summer before you started college—and a sample of your recent writing.

In addition to these beginning and end points, you will sort through your writing—all your writing, including annotated readings, journal entries, pre-writing, drafts, timed essays, essays returned to you with instructor or peer comments—to find the best evidence of the progress you have made.

Your ***Appendix of Evidence*** will itemize and describe the sample essays and any other sample documents you refer to in your self-reflection essay as evidence (you \*do not\* need to include the full writing assignment in your portfolio—just critical descriptions in the Appendix of Evidence).

***How Your Readers Use the Appendix***

Your self-reflection essay is the main document in your portfolio. But many faculty readers read your Appendix of Evidence first. This document gives the reader a quick synopsis of your argument and evidence. Read first, it becomes a preview we can use to guide our reading of the essay. This helps when we are reading large numbers of files over a short time.

The Appendix of Evidence lists each sample by title and describes the role each sample plays in your argument about progress. To illustrate the process you used to develop these samples or to represent your growing awareness of the rhetorical features of texts, the Appendix of Evidence also lists and describes any of the other work you did as a reader and/or writer that you want to call readers’ attention to in order to help us understand how you achieved the progress you have achieved.

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Writing the Self-Reflection Essay**

For this assignment, you will use everything you have learned about the writing process and the rhetorical features of an effective text to demonstrate—by completing this assignment—that your claims about your progress as a writer are true.

Using the portfolio of evidence, prepare an outline or sketch of the argument that body of evidence makes about your progress. Refer back to the documents in the Appendix of Evidence as you sample this work for your audience in your essay: quoting and explaining from the work to illustrate your claims.

Remember, your readers will not see the full portfolio—only the starting point (critical essay), the ending point (recent essay), self-reflection, and appendix of evidence. They will read the Self-Reflection Essay and the Appendix of Evidence.

***From those two documents, readers must be convinced of your claims about your own progress.***