

Lesson 20: Learn About Writing Portfolios

Purpose of Lesson 20: You will learn about a writing portfolio.

Skills: Critical thinking, reading comprehension, self-reflection, vocabulary, and writing.


Words to Learn:

portfolio - refers to a certain amount of a student's work that is saved for the purpose of evaluation: *Lee's class is learning how a portfolio can improve their writing.*

totality - means all, overall view: *Going to New Orleans allowed the president to see the totality of the damage.*


Directions: Read the conversation below and answer the quiz questions that follow.

1




Good morning. I'm glad you're early today. I want to introduce you to our "next step" in our writing class. It's called a **portfolio**.

2




My cousin Allie keeps a writing portfolio. He goes to school in Buffalo.

3



I'm not surprised. Portfolios have become a very welcome educational tool in many classrooms.

4



I've heard of them but really don't know what they are.

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Let me explain. I am going to have you keep all of your writing samples in a folder. It will be arranged by topic and in chronological order. As time goes by, we will select certain writing samples to go into another folder called a portfolio.

6

Two questions: how and what? How do you know which ones to select, and what is the purpose of this?



7



There can be many educational benefits.

Students:

- have a record of all their work.
- will be able to evaluate their work with their teacher.
- can assess their progress.

You will like this because you become involved in the evaluation of your work. A portfolio allows you to see the totality of your work instead of seeing the work as separate writing pieces.

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I see. We will be using samples we saved and wrote over a long period of time.



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We can look at your writings and keep track of your achievements and growth over a period of time. You'll experience this the more you do it.

10

How many pieces go into a writing portfolio? How often do we review it?



11



Well, the number of writing pieces we put into your portfolio varies. It depends on our goals. We will decide how many at a later date. I want our class to help with this decision. As for your second question, we will review it several times a year. It will affect your grade.

12

I like the idea of saving our work and then tracking our progress. I think it would be a good way to see what my specific strengths and weaknesses are.



13



That's true. For example, I can see if I am getting better at word choice but might find that I need to work harder on verb tenses.

14

We all like a "before and after" view of ourselves when we are going in the right direction. I already know I am a better writer after using the writing process. I can only imagine how much better we can get using a portfolio. It will be a real eye opener to see how we have progressed.



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It would also boost my confidence if I could see improvement in my writing.

16

I am glad you are so enthusiastic about this.



17



Allie also has a spelling and dictionary journal in his portfolio. What exactly are they?

18

A spelling journal is a list of new words that you use in your writing and you want to learn to spell them correctly. A dictionary journal is a list of words you are learning the meaning of. Both of them are great ways to expand your vocabulary.



19



I would like to try keeping journals like that.

20

No problem; I would like the class to keep them, too.

