

WEBSITE PORTFOLIO ASSIGNMENT SHEET

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PORTFOLIO

The website portfolio is designed to be a curation of a representative and reflective sample of your work. Think of this as a digital exhibit of the work you accomplish in this class and, more broadly, of how you'd like to publicly position yourself as a thinker and a person.

As the portfolio serves these functions, it also will ideally demonstrate your progress toward and achievement of our course goals and objectives by presenting and contextualizing work that you complete for this course as well as your reflections on your own progress as a writer and thinker during your final year at Galloway. Your portfolio is a formal writing component of each semester.

Like many of the writing and communication assignments we'll work on together this year, the portfolio website assignment will provide space and time to practice and thereby reinforce the following habits of good communication:

Rhetoric: Consider the rhetorical situation and the relationship between context, audience, and argument.

- What information does your audience need in order to understand you and the materials you are presenting on your portfolio website?
- How might you organize the information that you include here so that the structure of your site is both easily navigable and also tells its own or reinforces the written story of you that this portfolio website is creating?

Process: You will offer and receive feedback on work in progress as you draft, revise, and edit throughout the year.

- How can you communicate the value of learning and practicing process?
- Can you foreground process by dedicating a page on your site to it? Or by dedicating a section to writing your own reflection on process to each of the major assignments you create pages for? Both?

Persuasion + Argument: You will craft purposeful stances on issues, demonstrate critical thinking, and persuasively organize ideas within your major projects.

- How can argument and persuasion be foregrounded in your portfolio website?
- By showcasing the formal writing you have done this year?
- By writing reflections on argument and persuasion and the many areas we practiced persuasion within our classroom? In what other ways?

Research: To expand your understanding of the issues surrounding the questions and topics you thought about in class, you find and used credible evidence in support of and to contextualize your arguments and counterarguments.

- How can you showcase the importance of research in your portfolio website?

Attribution: Giving credit where credit is due is VITAL. Throughout class, you cite ideas, words, and images from other composers skillfully, ethically, and appropriately.

- How can you demonstrate the importance of attribution?

Conventions: Each time you compose something for this class, you use rhetorical knowledge to determine the conventions of the medium within which you are composing. You then make decisions that either align that product with those conventions or misalign it deliberately. For standard written artifacts, these conventions require that you demonstrate appropriate control over language and punctuation as well as over tone, structure, etc.

- What are the conventions of digital communication? Of websites? Of portfolios?
- How can you be sure that your portfolio website conforms to the sets of conventions that apply?

Modes: Many projects you complete require the integration of multiple modes of communication ethically and skillfully.

- How can you make sure that your portfolio website integrates multiple modes of communication throughout?

Some ideas for the web site:

The organization and structure of your portfolio website are up to you. I encourage you to think as creatively and broadly as you can in the way you choose to digitally represent yourself, your thinking, and your work. The only requirements that your site must meet are the following:

- Incorporate ample written reflection on your development as a thinker and writer;
- Contextualize each assignment or artifact that you include on your site;
- Organize and structure your site so that your audience knows how to interact with and read it in its variety of modes;
- Include a blog page that you can (and will) add to regularly; and
- Include a page on your site that introduces you and explains the purpose of the website.

WORTH NOTING

You may use Weebly, Wix, or Squarespace to create your site; no coding skills are necessary. Choose a domain (website) name that is professional.

GUIDELINES FOR PROCESS- & GROWTH-FOCUSED WRITTEN REFLECTION & CONTEXTUALIZATION IN YOUR PORTFOLIO WEBSITES

One important component of these sites is written reflections on your growth as a thinker, communicator, reader, and analyst. Where this writing is housed on your site is entirely up to you. Here are some questions and ideas you **might consider** as you think about and then begin to craft your reflective writing:

- Compare the ways in which the final versions of your written assignments were more effective (or, perhaps, less effective) than your earlier drafts. Make sure to consider purpose, audience, argument, evidence, and language conventions.
- How do your written assignments on your site use more than alphabetic text to convey their messages?
- What successful planning, composing, revising, and editing strategies did completing written assignments teach you that you might be able to use in other situations outside of this class?
- Reflect on your experiences with using technology in this class. Were there differences in the ways you addressed the assignments because your responses were digital? What successful composing, planning, drafting, revising, and editing strategies did completing these electronic assignments teach you that you might be able to use in other situations outside of this class?
- How did class discussion help you become a stronger oral communicator? How did presentations and microteaching do the same? What successful composing strategies did completing these oral assignments teach you that you might be able to use in other situations outside of this class?
- Reflect on your strengths and weaknesses in responding to the needs of your listening audience during presentations (e.g., attention-getting devices, organization, repetition, transitions, timing, visual aids).
- How does visual communication (especially layout, design, headers, images, fonts, color, and other graphic elements) use more than words to achieve your communicative goals? How does visual communication construct or support a persuasive argument?
- What are the processes (especially planning, collaboration with peers, using library resources, revision techniques, editing techniques, etc.) you have used effectively in composing final drafts of major and minor projects? Which processes are worth repeating when you do other projects?