

Final Portfolio and Reflective Essay

The Final Portfolio provides you an opportunity to gather together your strongest work from the semester, and gives you a means of critically reflecting on your work as writer throughout the semester. Though I have closely followed the progress of your written work, the Reflective Essay will give you a chance to direct me to strengths in your writing that you feel I may have overlooked, to show you knowledge of and ability to make use of the rhetorical strategies discussed in the course, and to practice the type of distanced, critical evaluation of your work necessary for you to continue strong writing and revising habits long after this class is over.

Your final portfolio should contain clean copies of the following papers:

1. Research Paper
2. Paper revised and resubmitted for a revised grade
3. Paper of your choice that you feel demonstrates strong use of rhetorical strategies
4. Also, include the remaining paper (for the sake of comparison)

(All drafts of the above papers with my comments on them, should also be included. Please use a paperclip to attach the drafts with the final paper.)

5. Reflective Essay

This essay should be 4-5 pages in length and address each of the first three papers listed above. You will need to specifically address the rhetorical strategies that you have employed in these papers. Make use of the terms we have used in class, including those from Crowley and The Craft of Research, to address what you consider to be your successes and failures. You will need to quote directly from the papers you are analyzing to show how particular strategies were used effectively or ineffectively. When addressing revisions, please tell me not only what you changed and why, but what effect it had on the development of your overall argument. When you address large sections, such as an entire paragraph, please refer me to the page number of the work in question. In a sense, you will be treating your papers as "source materials" from which you draw quotes to substantiate the claims you make about your writing (and revising) practice.

As I have mentioned before, you may want to bring in other work you have done during the semester (either from the Assignments for this class or for other classes) that provide stronger examples of your use of particular rhetorical strategies than do the primary papers of your portfolio. In discussing your papers, you may discuss how you would have done things differently, if you had the opportunity to do the paper over again. This will show both your understanding of the rhetorical strategies (of invention, arrangement, and style) and your ability to look critically at your own work, which is the key to strong revision and your future development as a writer.