

Portfolio Rubric Blocks

Introduction:

Although there are seven artifacts, the portfolio works as a single complex document. Instructors will evaluate each portfolio as a whole, assigning it a single grade (as opposed to grading each exhibit separately and averaging grades).

As your instructor reads your portfolio, they will evaluate how effectively your Introductory Reflective Essay (IRE) 1) presents an argument about your writing and learning over the course of the semester and 2) supports this argument by incorporating and explaining evidence from your other portfolio artifacts. In other words, expect FYW instructors to use the IRE as a guide for reading your other documents, in order to get a sense of how well they match the expectations you set up in your Introduction. Of course, instructors always look for evidence of care, originality, hard work, and excellent writing, but in the portfolio we are also interested in your ability to write reflectively and persuasively about your writing. Your instructor will look particularly closely at whatever you write about in your IRE: if your IRE talks about writing complex thesis statements, for example, your instructor will expect to see evidence of complex thesis statements in the IRE and other artifacts that feature argumentation.

Process: In the three major projects you've completed this semester, the Process block has represented the drafts, outlines, peer reviews, and revisions you've performed on your project. The portfolio approaches process **not** as a required set of drafts or iterations, but instead as your awareness of how process has shaped your writing this semester. Your portfolio should consider what you've learned about the writing process and revision over the course of the semester.

This block will be most important for your **IRE** (which should address what you've learned about the writing process), your **revision exhibit** (which should show your reader what your process looks like), your **peer review exhibit** (which shows how collaborating is a part of the writing process), and your **two revised essays** (which show the end result of your process).

Argument: You've likely made a variety of arguments in your major projects this semester, but your portfolio will make a very specific type of argument about what you've learned or confirmed about your writing over the course of the semester. Your central thesis could make a claim about your growth in a particular area (e.g. evidence, audience awareness, writing process), could find a larger pattern in or metaphor for how you write, or focus on how the portfolio exhibits your strengths (in analysis, in metacognition, in style, etc.).

This block will be particularly vital for your **IRE** (which should present a clear argument), and each exhibit in your portfolio should connect back to this argument. In addition, the **two**

revised essays will likely demonstrate how you create and support an individual argument, depending on the assignment's genre.

Evidence: Much like in your projects this semester, the evidence block of the portfolio rubric represents how your portfolio supports its central claim. Evidence in the portfolio will likely include quotes from your finished drafts, rough drafts, peer reviews, or instructor comments but it could also include descriptions of how and when you wrote, as well as multimodal evidence like images or videos. Evidence should be curated specifically to support the argument made in the IRE, and all evidence drawn from outside sources should be properly cited.

This block will be most important for your **IRE** (which should incorporate evidence in the form of specific examples drawn from the other portfolio artifacts). In addition, the **two revised essays** will likely demonstrate how you incorporate primary and secondary evidence, depending on the assignment's genre. The **wild card** presents an opportunity for you to support your claim from a new perspective or with additional evidence than what you wrote in class.

Reflection: The portfolio is primarily a **reflective** document: it asks you to think critically about your experiences, processes, behaviors, and tendencies. Reflection is more than simply recounting previous experiences; it should involve serious thought and commentary on what you have *discovered* through those experiences.

The portfolio as a whole represents a reflection about your work over the course of the semester. The **biography** will help contextualize your reflection by sharing a piece of yourself as a person. The **IRE** will follow that introduction by applying your reflection to the claim about your writing this semester. Later, the **revision exhibit** will critically reflect on specific changes you've made over the course of one of your projects' drafting processes; not just exhibiting what has changed, but explaining why you made the changes. Your instructor may require you to include brief introductions connecting your other portfolio exhibits to the central reflective argument in your IRE.

Other Rubric Blocks: Your instructor might choose one or two additional blocks from the rubric to use in addition to the four blocks required above.