Portfolio and Self-Assessment Essay: Due No Later than Wednesday May 22nd at 5pm

The portfolio and self-assessment are in many ways the most important documents that you'll create for this class. Assembling the portfolio will help you to see your progress in spoken and written communication over the course of the semester; the self-assessment will give you the chance to evaluate that work based on your own criteria as well as the course learning outcomes.

The Self-Assessment will provide you with an opportunity to demonstrate that you've understood the theoretical concepts and rhetorical terms presented in the class and have practiced the interpretative and communicative techniques that we've been working with all semester. The portfolio should include, at a minimum, five writing samples from each section of the class. Feel free to add additional documents to the portfolio. You might want to include the story board, drafts of essays, images, or something else not listed here. The Self-Assessment allows you to evaluate your work based not only on your own criteria but also on the class learning outcomes.

Course Learning Outcomes

The **topic** section satisfies the "Creative Expression" category of Pathways. Students will:

- Gain familiarity with issues of truth, authenticity and objectivity in photography
- Build critical thinking skills through visual analysis and interpretation of images
- Develop understanding of how images differ from texts
- Build library and research skills
- Explore how images differ from texts
- Build writing and speaking skills
- Master correct acknowledgment of sources for research papers process.

The **composition** section satisfies the English composition requirement. Students will:

- Explore and analyze in your own and others' writing a variety of genres and rhetorical situations
- Develop strategies for reading, drafting, revising, and editing
- Practice systematic application of citation conventions
- Recognize and practice key rhetorical terms and strategies when engaged in writing situations
- Develop and engage in the collaborative and social aspects of writing processes
- Understand and use print and digital technologies to address a range of audiences
- Locate research sources (including academic journal articles, magazine and newspaper articles) in the library's databases or archives and on the internet and evaluate them for credibility, accuracy, timeliness, and bias
- Compose texts that integrate your stance and language with appropriate sources

The self-assessment essay should address the class learning outcomes directly and provide examples as evidence from your work. The essay will *not* be evaluated on whether or not you have achieved any specific goal, but on how well you link your work to the class learning outcomes.

You must provide examples of your writing and revision by quoting from your own essay(s), blackboard posts, presentations or facilitations.

Referring back to the learning outcomes for the class:

- To demonstrate that you have developed "reading, drafting, collaborating, revising, and editing," you might include, copies of the notes you took while reading to demonstrate that you have developed flexible strategies for reading.
- To demonstrate that your drafting process has changed, you might want to include (and refer to in your Self-Assessment) a draft from an early and a late assignment that demonstrate changes in your drafting process. If you started using outlines during the semester, you could post and write about how outlining helped (or didn't help) with overall organization of your essays.
- To demonstrate that you have engaged in the collaborative and social aspects of writing, you might include in your portfolio a peer review comment that you gave and one that you received, or describe how an in-class writing activity helped (or didn't help) with the composition of a particular paper.
- To demonstrate knowledge of the skills involved in the creative process you may include a creative discussion board post and describe the way(s) in which you came up with and wrote it.

The self-assessment is a kind of research paper. Your development as a communicator and a writer is the subject and your speech, thoughts, and writing is your evidence. As you write your self-assessment, you'll be referring to the works (from both sections) you've included in your portfolio. You don't have to refer to all of the learning outcomes for each class as there is significant overlap. But, be as thorough as possible. (1000 words)

Your portfolio website is the site we created on the second day of class that you have been uploading writing to periodically throughout the semester.

While the arrangement of the portfolio is up to you, it should be easy to navigate. As with any web site, you want to be able to find what you're looking for without any interference. This might mean scanning handwritten notes, taking screenshots of annotated Web sites, and turning your essays into .PDFs or Web texts.

Assessment Rubric

While you won't be asked to assess your own Self-Assessment, you should be aware of the criteria that I'll use when I assess it.

- Have you addressed the course learning outcomes in detail, even if your description is that you didn't feel that you progressed in that area?
- Have you provided evidence, in the form of your own writing that you have developed as a writer? Are you able to identify areas in which you have not progressed, either because you didn't spend enough time with them or you feel that you had a strong start in those areas?
- Have you edited the self-assessment for typographical and grammatical errors?
- In your portfolio design, have you maintained consistency from one page to the next with regard to color, font, and formatting?
- Is your portfolio design simple and easy to navigate?
- Are the documents you refer to easy to access or does the reader need to download in order to view them?