

Final Portfolio

Creative Writing

Mr. Monsen

Directions: Read the “**Assignment Task**” and “**Steps for Completing the Final Portfolio**” below, and then use the “**Step-By-Step Breakdown**” to complete this assignment.

Assignment Task: The Final Portfolio is a compilation of your best work of the year in my class, plus a few final additions that must be completed. **It should be done with Google Slides.**

STEPS for Completing the Final Portfolio

1. Think of and develop a theme for your portfolio. For example, *Seek Joy In What You Give, Not What You Get* (Like the sample portfolio attached).
2. Choose your SEVEN best pieces and revise/proofread them and fix them up with new creative fonts and pictures. (You can put more than seven pieces in your portfolio, but only the first seven will count toward the grade).
3. Type up your Reflections for each of the seven chosen pieces, if you haven't done so already.
4. Write and type your About the Author and add a picture (See Sample).
5. Write and type your “Dear Reader” Letter (**Directions are included in this packet**).
6. Proofread, revise, and organize everything to make sure it's done to the best of your ability.
7. Add pictures and dedicate your portfolio to a person or a bunch of people.
8. Submit your portfolio to my google classroom.

**The FINAL PORTFOLIO IS DUE Friday, January 21st,
and counts as your FINAL EXAM grade.**

Step-By-Step Breakdown

Step 1: Think of a theme for your portfolio.

Step 2: Pick out your SEVEN best/favorite pieces and revise them so they are perfect.

Step 3: Type up your Reflections if you haven't already. Use the questions below to revise your Reflections:

Writing Reflections

The Human Side

- 1) Where did you get the idea for this piece? When? Where? Why?
- 2) What do you like most/least about this piece?
- 3) Is this one of your better writing pieces? Why? Why not?
- 4) What did you learn about yourself from writing this essay?

The Technical Side

- 1) What skills did you use in this piece that made the piece better?
- 2) What is the strongest part of this piece in your opinion? What is the weakest part?
- 3) Which part of the writing process – brainstorming, crafting, revising, or editing/proofreading/publishing – did you find most difficult? Why?
- 4) What did you do to make your sentence structure better?
- 5) What did you do to make sure this piece was organized properly?
- 6) What revisions have you made to the original piece?
- 7) What would you change if you were to do this piece again?

A good reflection will combine both the Human Side *and* the Technical Side into one thoughtful, honest paragraph.

Step 4: Type up your “About the Author”. Write this in 3rd person (he/she or your name). Use the sample in the sample portfolio.

Step 5: Read the “Dear Reader Letter” Notes and sample below and write your own.

Your "Dear Reader" Letter can be written in prose or poem format. Be creative!

This is my letter to the World
That never wrote to Me --
The simple News that Nature told --
With tender Majesty

Her Message is committed
To Hands I cannot see --
For love of Her -- Sweet -- countrymen --
Judge tenderly -- of Me

--Emily Dickinson

Your "Dear Reader" Letter explains the portfolio contents and its value to the writer. Like Emily Dickinson’s poem inviting her readers to “judge tenderly,” your "Dear Reader" Letter invites readers of your portfolio into the world of your writing. Who might read your portfolio? Teachers, parents, friends, classmates, descendants, or future students looking upon your letter as an example.

Your "Dear Reader" Letter will:

- Have a date atop the page.
- Be one of the last pieces you write—so it reflects thoughts on your newly written five reflections, and self-portrait.
- Begin with a conventional letter opening (e.g. Dear Reader,)
- Invite your reader into the world of your writing.
- Clue your reader in to your portfolio title’s context.
- Describe the context of the portfolio cover’s image or graphic.
- Open your reader’s eyes and mind to your portfolio’s meaning.
- Use paragraphs to divide your ideas in order to give your reader’s eye a rest.
- Close with a conventional letter closing. (e.g. Sincerely, or With Warm Regards,)
- The opportunity is yours.

If you put no personality into the "Dear Reader" Letter, it will sound stiff and wooden. If you express your personality, your letter will sparkle

Tips:

- 1) Trust in your intuition as an artist.
- 2) Make your own choices.
- 3) Open your reader's eyes and mind.
- 4) Be a writer.
- 5) Have fun.

Dear Reader,

This portfolio represents a year's worth of my writing, along with brief reflections on each piece, in Mr. Monsen's English class. I have carefully chosen these pieces to be representative of my abilities as a writer. Although writing isn't usually easy for me, it has become a great part of my life.

One of my teachers constantly told me to read books (old as they may be) as if the ink on the pages were still wet. I like to think of wet ink as the antithesis of dead, dry ink. Annie Dillard writes in *The Writing Life*, "The written word is weak. Many people prefer life to it. Life gets your blood going, and it smells good. Writing is mere writing, literature is mere. It appeals only to the subtlest senses—the imagination's vision, and the imagination's hearing—and the moral sense, and the moral intellect... An ordinary reader picking up a book can't yet hear a thing; it will take half an hour to pick up on the writing's modulations, its ups and downs and louds and softs" (17). So my advice, dear reader, is to read as the uncommon reader: take the time to listen, for only then will writing mean anything more than funny symbols on a piece of paper.

As a writer, I feel like a prisoner. Confined within narrow confines (my brain) I must find the best way possible to express myself. Every word becomes precious; excess equals waste. I write, revise, edit, and re-edit. And then I'm done. I may never know who is touched by my writing. I will never know how good or bad it actually is. I write for myself, and when I'm done, my words go out the window (so to speak).

. . . I have included in this portfolio three poems, a memoir, and a social commentary, amongst other writing pieces that I created this year. If I were to single out my greatest growth in writing, it would have to be my ability to create my own unique voice in my writing.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Go through my portfolio and read all or none of my writing, as you wish. Just remember one thing, please: the ink is still wet!

Sincerely yours,
Adrienne

Step 6: Proofread, revise, and organize everything to make sure it's done to the best of your ability.

Step 7: Add pictures and dedicate your portfolio to a person or a bunch of people.

Step 8: Submit your portfolio to my google classroom.

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