

REWIND: FINAL PORTFOLIO

Congrats! We've made it to the semester's finish line: go us. ☺ Over the duration of this semester we have examined the fundamental elements that go into argumentation and research in academic contexts. We have done so via a combination of class activities; discussions; one-on-one conferences; check-ins; close, careful readings and viewings of essays, speeches, presentations, and academic studies composed by established authors and original essays designed by members of our classroom community; with peer and instructor evaluations. We have also considered how the texts in class illustrate the ways that argumentation and research can provide interesting and powerful ways to investigate and further understand important social and cultural areas such as history, politics, gender, and labor, among others. We have also seen how such endeavors have spoken and continue to speak to what it means, has meant, or could possibly mean to not only be a student here at SUNY Buffalo State, but also as a human being in the world. For your final writing assignment, you will make a portfolio that is compiled of a reflective letter, two revised blogposts, and all of your formal writing assignments (I.E., "What Do You Have to Say?", "Body Language" and "Bring it Home") combined into one cohesive formal research essay, all of which will work in tandem to explain and demonstrate how well you have improved your ability to critically read, consider, discuss, and write with cogency and resonance.



This assignment will be submitted via Blackboard. Your portfolio will be one large document that incorporates all of your assignments. It **must be saved and uploaded in .doc or .docx file format. Your document must be accessible. If I cannot open it, I cannot read your work, which means that you won't receive any credit for the assignment, which will have a negative impact on your final course grade.** Your portfolio must contain revised copies of the following documents, all of which will be arranged in the following order:

PORTFOLIO ARRANGEMENT

- ✚ A Reflective Letter **of 1,250-1,500 words of text**, discussing exactly how your reading, critical thinking, research, writing, responding, and communication skills have improved this semester, and how you have applied those skills to the work presented in the portfolio. This letter can be as formal or informal as you wish: what matters most is that it sets the tone for what your audience should focus on and explains in specific, elaborative detail why such is the case.
- ✚ ~~Blogpost 1: The Feeler of Feels~~
- ✚ ~~Blogpost 2: Creative Response Blog~~
- ✚ ~~Your semester-long research essay, which is compiled of all of your formal writing assignments. Be sure to combine them into a single essay.~~

~~To this end, if you did not submit one or more of these assignments during the semester, you **cannot** include it/them in the portfolio. If this pertains to you, I recommend that you take account for this in your reflective letter. Include all of the assignments you submitted. **Do not** include any other documents or previous drafts or incarnations of your work (i.e., no earlier drafts, peer critique sheets, and so forth), and submit all of your work in one document in the aforementioned order.~~

ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS

- ✚ ~~Title the portfolio (**something other than Rewind, Final Portfolio, or Reflective Letter**).~~
- ✚ ~~Give your reflective letter a title (**something other than Rewind, Final Portfolio, or Reflective Letter**).~~
- ✚ ~~Use **10-point (minimum) 12-point (maximum)** for the reflective letter.~~
- ✚ ~~**Double space** the reflective letter and semester-long research essay.~~
- ✚ ~~Title **all of your blogposts (something other than the names of the blogpost prompts, the readings they're based on, or videos they are responding to).**~~
- ✚ ~~**Single space** your blogposts.~~
- ✚ ~~**All of the assignment requirements for each assignment must be followed in the portfolio**, just as they needed to be when they were first discussed and submitted.~~
- ✚ ~~Assemble, save, and upload all of your work in **one document** that incorporates the Reflective Letter and all of your assignments.~~

- ~~✦ Use **APA or CMS format for citations.**~~
- ~~✦ Place all source(s) pages **at the end of your formal research essay.**~~
- ~~✦ **Insert page breaks in between your assignments** (i.e., don't just hit enter a bunch of times).~~
- ~~✦ Save and submit your work **in .doc or docx file format only. No exceptions.**~~
- ~~✦ Name the file thus: (Your) Last Name_Final Portfolio. **Example (i.e., DO NOT USE):** Nicoletti_Stay Hydrated~~
- ~~✦ Submit your Portfolio via **Blackboard.**~~
- ~~✦ Submit your Portfolio in the dropbox titled, **Rewind: Final Portfolio Dropbox. The dropbox is open, and is located in the Content section** of our class Blackboard site.~~
- ~~✦ The Rewind: Final Portfolio assignment is **due on Wednesday, May 12th, 2021, at 7:00 am.**~~

Please note: failure to submit your portfolio by the time and date listed on this prompt, the course schedule, and to the aforementioned specifications puts you at risk for receiving a failing grade (i.e., a C- or lower) for the course. Thus, I urge you to take care in planning and proceeding with the assignment accordingly.

EVALUATION

As with individual writing assignments, your portfolio will be evaluated on your ability to draw upon our course readings and materials; your enhanced skills in reading, interpreting, discussing and crafting college/university-level essays; your enhanced skill set in conducting research, audience awareness, your fluency with language and sophistication of thought; in essence, the portfolio is a testament of what you have learned this semester, as well as how you learned it, and perhaps most importantly, how you have applied (and might apply) what you have learned in our class community this semester.

It is also worth mentioning that the reflective letter aspect of the portfolio is also an opportunity to discuss other class factors that have figured prominently into your development as an analytical reader, critical thinker, responder, writer, and communicator. One example of this might consider how one (or more) of our class activities gave you another perspective or understanding of how you might look at an issue or how different takes on a given topic made you see things differently. You might also consider your own preparation for class. If, for example, you did not submit one of your assignments, you might have learned something about accountability: **what you could have done differently** from the experience, which has enabled you to make necessary adjustments to composing your work. Whatever you decide to say, be sure to be clear, specific, elaborative, and on-task. While I don't foresee any of the following issues taking place, let me be clear: **do not vent or complain; do not make inflammatory or disparaging comments about the course or any member of our class community; do not mention or discuss the grade that you think you have earned, are entitled to, or should receive for the class. Instead, discuss the specific elements of your development; on your progress throughout the course this semester; on how you have taken ownership of your work, as this assignment is about your learning and improvement. Anything else will be off-point, so stay focused.**

You can make any changes you would like or deem necessary to your assignments. In addition to utilizing the comments you received about your work, you might also consider addressing how you might use the skills you have developed for other classes, now that you know more about professional communication; about civility; about critical reading and responding, as well as academic writing and research. In any case, all of your assignments will remain the same, in terms of content and requirements. Strive to revise your work well: to demonstrate the improvement you have made to your professional, audience-oriented reading, writing, research, and communication skills, **as improvement is the primary objective of all that we do and have done in class.** As with any assignment, submitting it early is rad, and on time is **expected.** Your portfolio must be submitted following the requirements of this assignment prompt, each other respective assignment prompt, and the policies stated in the course syllabus. **Please note: your work cannot be changed or altered once it is submitted,** so be sure to take whatever steps are necessary and invest the appropriate amount of time you will need to complete this assignment successfully.

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

As always, please don't hesitate to HMU if you have any questions or would like additional help with your portfolio or with any of the assignments that are included in it. I am happy to assist in any way that I can. I am excited to receive your take on the work you have done this semester, especially about the particulars and application of what you have learned—**with regards to the improvement of your reading, research, writing, and oral communication skills; how you have enhanced your aptitude for reaching and moving a college/university level audience. Go get this:** think, write, revise, and arrange well. I look forward to reading your work. Onward!