

Using Digital Portfolios to Foster Student Learning

Workshop Syllabus

Workshop Overview

In this workshop, participants will take an in-depth look at the power of digital portfolios as a tool to document student learning through exploring various formats and uses of digital portfolios in classrooms. Participants will also be introduced to a wide variety of tools that can be used to create and assemble digital portfolios, and investigate criteria that may be used to select components that would be included in the portfolio. Participants will leave the workshop with detailed plans for implementing a digital portfolio project in their respective classrooms.

Goals

During this workshop, participants will learn skills and strategies to:

- Identify the potential of digital portfolios to demonstrate student understanding and growth over time;
- Select meaningful components for digital portfolios;
- Explore a variety of software tools for the creation of digital portfolios;
- Use portfolios as a means of alternative assessment; and
- Plan a digital portfolio project for classroom use.

Alignment to Standards

This workshop meets the standards for Content, Instructional Design, and Technology as defined in the [National Standards of Quality for Online Courses](#), published by the [International Association for K-12 Online Learning](#) (iNACOL).

This workshop provides teachers with an opportunity to meet the Engage in Professional Growth and Leadership standard as defined in the [National Educational Technology Standards and Performance Indicators for Teachers](#), published by the [International Society for Technology in Education](#) (ISTE).

Intended Audience

This is an introductory workshop for K-12 teachers, technology specialists, curriculum specialists, professional development specialists, or other school personnel. Participants are expected to have regular access to computers and be proficient with email and current Web-browsers.

Workshop Outline

Session One: Why Use Digital Portfolios

This session's readings will introduce the power and potential of digital portfolios. You will have an opportunity to review and compare a number of portfolios developed by different grade levels and you will get started on your portfolio design plan. In the discussion board, you will reflect on some of the example portfolios you explored and the benefits you see to this type of assessment.

Session Two: Getting Started with Digital Portfolios

Now that you understand some of the benefits of digital portfolios, you will want to decide what type of content will be showcased in your student's digital portfolios. Readings for this week will provide you with an overview of the various types of portfolios and help you to consider how to help students select items to include. You will draft your ideas on your Portfolio Design Plan and then your colleagues will help you refine your ideas in the discussion board.

Session Three: Selecting the Right Tools for Building a Digital Portfolio

In this session you will explore what tools would be most appropriate for creating a digital portfolio in your school system, as well as what platform or system would be best to contain these portfolios. You will consider your local assessment initiatives and available technology resources as you review the different platforms available. For this session's activities, you will explore tools and resources and then share your ideas with your online colleagues.

Session Four: Using Digital Portfolios as a Tool for Student Self-Reflection

In this session, you will think about selecting portfolio pieces that encourage students to reflect on their work, revealing their growth. This session's activities will give you an opportunity to explore some checklists developed for that purpose. You will then use the discussion board to share your ideas on the importance of student self-reflection and how that reflection might translate into a digital portfolio activity.

Session Five: Using Digital Portfolios to Assess Student Learning

This session's readings introduce portfolios as an alternative tool for assessing student learning and discuss how portfolios relate to other methods of ongoing assessment. After reading some articles about the value of digital portfolios and authentic assessment, you will view a video where students and teachers reflect on the value of having an authentic audience to view student work. In the Activities section, you will explore an assessment package, developed and used in a California school district, that incorporates digital portfolios and you will explore sample rubrics used to assess digital portfolios. In the workshop discussion board, you will share and learn from one another's perspectives on the use of portfolios as assessment measures.

Session Six: Putting it All Together

In this session you will work on completing your Portfolio Design Plan and adding to your digital portfolio as you reflect on what you have learned in this workshop. You will also read about various strategies for implementing portfolios in your school. In the discussion board, you will have the opportunity to review and comment on the final versions of other participants' portfolio plans.