



Technology in Action Guide

Secondary Digital Portfolios



Definition

A digital portfolio is a computer or web based collection of student performance over time. Portfolios provide a window into student learning. A portfolio should showcase both student achievement and student learning or growth. To demonstrate growth, a portfolio will often include similar work done over the course of several months or years.

The student portfolio should include content chosen by the student with the clear understanding that the items must include examples of their best performances, demonstrations of

achieving a particular objective, and examples showing personal and academic growth. The content should include a wide range of skills and abilities to provide clear demonstration of what the student knows and understands about their ability.

One of the most important elements in a portfolio can be the student's reflection on their work. Students should include reflections on each performance to clarify why that selection is included in the portfolio. This is perhaps the most valuable part of the portfolio, since it provides a much clearer window into the learning of each student.



Standards Connections

ELA: Speaking and Listening standards SL.2, SL.4, SL.5

Fine Art: Standard Using a Personal Portfolio VA.PR4, VA. PR5

Math: Practice standard 4 Modeling with Mathematics

Social Emotional Learning: Standard Goal 1– Developing Self Awareness —Goal 1—Develop Self-awareness related to academic goals

Social Science: Standards for Developing Inquiry skills



Uses

Student-Led Conferences— Creating a digital portfolio of student selected work to present during a student led conference allows students to take ownership of their learning. Not only can students share where they excel in their academics, but they can reflect on their growth from the beginning of the quarter and even discuss where they may still be struggling by sharing the artifacts. Teachers can guide the selection of the portfolio artifacts so that the items included reflect the whole academic and social picture of the student.

Transition/Career —Creating portfolios in preparation to transition to the next academic level, college admissions or job applications will allow students to share a complete representation of who they are in academics and in a community context. Students building this type of portfolio will be able to identify the skills and credentials required to enter a particular profession (or next grade level) and begin to set long-term academic/career goals. The portfolio can assist them in planning and reflecting on the goals as they progress.



Resources—Digital Portfolios



Weebly website builder is a simple “drag and drop” tool that has an educational account option that allows for a free account that educators can use to create as many student websites as needed. The educator can also create one website and assign a specific page to individual students by assigning them as editors to only that page. Weebly websites can be password protected so visitors can be controlled. Caution students on cyber safety and posting personal information, names can be limited to first name, last initial when public communication is not needed for the portfolio.

<https://education.weebly.com>



Google Sites website builder is an intermediate level website builder that can be integrated with Google classroom. This will allow parents to see the websites while connected to their students accounts and teachers within the same school to view them as well. Of course making the site public will allow anyone with the link to view the website as well. There are many resources available on the web to customize a website within Google sites and many video tutorials to help educators and students to learn how to use the platform. <https://sites.google.com/>



Seesaw— <http://web.seesaw.me/> - This is a student driven digital portfolio system that allows students to independently document what they are learning at school. Educators create classes within the platform. Students can be entered into the classes or teachers can give a class code to the student to "self join". Students can capture learning with pictures and videos (currently just iOS for videos), import documents and add comments. Student work can be shared with the class and other students can comment. (Educators monitor the comments prior to being displayed to the class on the "Facebook like feed".) The Seesaw platform includes the following features:

- ◇ Google Classroom integration
- ◇ All mobile device apps (Kindle Fire!)
- ◇ Chromebook compatible
- ◇ Multimedia tools built-in
- ◇ Integration with 100s of apps
- ◇ Free parent access
- ◇ Class blog (can be public or private)
- ◇ Printing with custom QR codes
- ◇ 2 teachers can share a class
- ◇ Teachers can have 10 classes
- ◇ Portfolios can be downloaded to a CD
- ◇ Many webinars for training

Creating and Documenting Student Artifacts

Websites and Online Resources



Screencast-o-matic allows users to

record on-screen activity and audio from a computer microphone or computer sound. Students can open their MS Word or Google Doc essay or report and record their reflections or process on how they developed their story. The video can then be saved and imported to the portfolio. The same process could be done for any computer generated work, modeling how to research or conduct a search online, or doing a science experiment with an interactive model and explaining why the reactions are occurring.

<https://screencast-o-matic.com/home>



ScreenCastify—Chromebook compatible screen capture extension that will allow users to record on-screen activity including audio from either the microphone or computer sound.

<http://bit.ly/2GqrXdm>



Adobe Spark is a video creation tool that can be used on any device, Windows computer, Chromebook, and mobile device (even a phone!) Projects are saved online so students can access their project at anytime from a different device to edit and continue to work. The editor can import pictures, record video, add sound and music. The platform has many educational tutorials to guide educators in implementation and use.

<https://spark.adobe.com/>



Animoto is a video design platform that creates slide shows with music and built-in video styles. Many of the layout and creation tools are taken care of by the program so that the user only needs to “drag and drop” the photos. The resource includes an option for education that removes the watermark and increases the time limit allotment from the free version. Educators must first register for the free version, then “apply” for the upgraded educator version. <https://animoto.com/>



Analyze My Writing website tool can assist students in developing the written content placed on the portfolio websites. The tool will return an analysis of any writing that is pasted into the text box on the page. The platform will return information for basic text statistics, common words and phrases, readability, Lexile density, passive voice, cloze text, word-sentence-character counts, use of punctuation marks, and word/sentence lengths.

<http://www.analyzeemywriting.com/>



Easel.ly is a platform to create infographics from templates provided or design users own with guidance. Website offers both free and paid options with an educational pricing discount. The free option has 60 images and 10 font styles. Students can use this platform to show accomplishments outside of school, participation in community events or activities they would like to pursue in the future. <https://www.easel.ly/>

ThingLink for Education

ThingLink creates an interactive digital graphic by adding “dots” that pop up text or connections to websites, videos or more graphics. Users can upload photos, documents or any graphic and then add points anywhere on the item to show items of interest or further exploration. Within a portfolio students might create a Thinglink for an art project or science model. After taking a photo of the artifacts students could identify areas within the media of an art project and make connections to the inspiration or selection of colors. Students connecting to a science model may have linkable items to the research they have based their data or maybe an interactive experiment proving their hypothesis.

<https://www.thinglink.com/edu>



MyEbookMaker creates Ebooks with this simple platform that allows users to upload a picture for the book cover, enter a Title and Author(s), organize chapters, enter or copy text into a standard text editor or templates. Many formatting option available including graphics, tables, flash video and iFrames. Accounts are free and files can be downloaded into an Epub format that can be transferred directly to e-readers, phones or tablets, hosted on website for downloads or read online by browser supported eReaders. Students can create an Ebook of their essays, stories and poetry...etc.

<http://www.myebookmaker.com/>



Supporting Resources

There are many technology resources to support content curation for digital portfolios. The ones listed above are some of the best suited for 6-12th grade student ability levels. Be aware that technology companies can often change over time and as of the printing of this document all resources are current and available. To find more resources and the latest up-to-date technology to support technology integration, please visit www.ilclassroomtech.weebly.com.

- ◆ Assessment tools
- ◆ Audio/video tools
- ◆ Content area support
- ◆ Digital portfolios
- ◆ Computer science
- ◆ Learning management systems
- ◆ Mobile apps
- ◆ Research tools
- ◆ Social Emotional Learning
- ◆ Technology terms

