Handout - Digital Portfolio Challenges

One of the struggles for students who are working on digital portfolio projects is knowing just what to write about. Teachers can help to address this problem by giving students a series of challenge prompts that detail a specific type of post that they can write. Here are some examples:

Digital Portfolio Challenge One:	**Write about the last idea that really left you wondering**. Successful people are curious. Think about something that makes YOU curious. Why is that question so interesting to you? What about that idea has you confused? What do you think the answer to your wonder question is going to be? What will you do next to learn more about your wonder question?
Digital Portfolio Challenge Two:	**Share a YouTube video that you learned something from.** The chances are good that you spend a LOT of time watching YouTube videos that are connected to your interests. Find a YouTube video that you learned something from. Share that video in your portfolio. Explain what you learned from the video. Then, explain what you want to learn about next after watching the YouTube video.
Digital Portfolio Challenge Three:	**Share a YouTube video that OTHER people can learn from.** Whether you realize it or not, you are an expert on a ton of topics. Choose one of those areas of expertise. Then, find and share a YouTube video that novices can learn from. Write about the reasons that you think the video makes for a good tutorial for rookies. What should they expect to learn by watching the video? What should they do AFTER watching the video?
Digital Portfolio Challenge Four:	**Add a hand drawn image to your digital portfolio.** Think about a topic that you are currently learning about in one of your classes. Then, create a hand drawn image designed to teach others about that topic. Can you make a Venn Diagram? Can you write out a formula? Can you create a comic strip? Can you create a set of sketch notes? Can you make a graph? Insert your hand drawn image into your digital portfolio.
Digital Portfolio Challenge Five:	**Write about a mistake that you made on a recent assignment.** Let's face it: We ALL make mistakes when we are trying to learn new things. Look back over your last several assignments and find a mistake that you made. Write about that mistake. What did you get wrong? Why do you think you got that wrong? How would you correct your mistake now?
Digital Portfolio Challenge Six:	**Create a How To video tutorial or quick guide that other people can learn from.** What is something that you know how to do really well? Are you great at origami? Can you factor polynomials like no one else? Do you know how to revise sentence fragments? Have you figured out how to write clean code in Scratch? Then create a short (2 minutes) video tutorial/screencast OR a short (4 steps with pictures) quick guide that shows others how to master that particular skill.
Digital Portfolio Challenge Seven:	**Write about a recent assignment (quiz, test, project, performance) that you aced**. What did the assignment ask you to do? How did you complete the assignment? Did you spend extra time working on it? Did you make more than one attempt? Did you seek out help from someone? Did you tackle the task in a unique or interesting way? Was this work hard for you? Why did that learning make you so proud?
Digital Portfolio Challenge Eight:	**Share a quote that best represents your attitudes and beliefs about learning.** What are your core beliefs about being a successful learner? Do you think that learning is dependent on hard work? Are people born smart? Can people become smarter? Is learning easier when you are joyful? Does work have to be perfect in order for it to count as "learning?" Do some Google Searching for quotes about learning. Find one that represents your beliefs about learning. Share that in your portfolio and explain what it is about that quote that you believe in. Need an example of a quote about learning? Here's my favorite.
Digital Portfolio Challenge Nine:	**Share a learning tip for a younger student.** What one bit of advice would you make to a younger student about succeeding as a learner? Why does that tip matter so much? How do you know that tip will work? Has that tip helped you as a learner? How?

Digital Portfolio Challenge Ten:	**Share an example of progress that you have made as a learner.** All of us make progress as learners. Find a place where you have made progress. Share evidence of the progress that you have made. What did you know when you started your learning? What do you know now? Do you have any work samples and/or grades that can serve as evidence of the progress that you have made? What next steps do you need to take to keep moving forward.
Digital Portfolio Challenge Eleven:	**Create a ranked list of three different study strategies.** There are TONS of different steps that students take to study new content. We use flash cards, online games (think Quizlet or Kahoot), review with study partners, and study guides. List three study strategies that you have used in order from MOST effective to LEAST effective -- and defend your rankings.
Digital Portfolio Challenge Twelve:	**Comment on a digital portfolio post made by a peer.** Find a peer who is keeping a digital portfolio. Read through their recent posts. Find one that you really enjoyed. Take a minute to leave a comment for your peer. Tell them what you learned from their post. Ask them questions about their post. Make a suggestion for a future post that you think they should write. Tell them what YOU are going to do now that you've read their post.
Digital Portfolio Challenge Thirteen:	**Share an example of something that you are learning OUTSIDE of school.** What a lot of teachers and students forget is that some of the best learning that we do happens OUTSIDE of school. Write about something that you recently learned at home -- either on your own, from your parents/peers, or as a part of a structured activity. How did your learning experience differ from the learning you do at school? Was it more fun? Less fun? Why? What could your teachers at school learn from your teachers outside of school about good lessons?
Digital Portfolio Challenge Fourteen:	**Write a "Top Five Things My Teachers Need to Know about Me as a Learner" post.** One of the mistakes that teachers often make is assuming that every kid in their classrooms learn the exact same way. Take a few minutes to list the Top Five Things that teachers need to know about you as a learner. Do you struggle with a particular subject or skill? Do you thrive in competitive situations? Do you like to work in groups? Do you absolutely hate (or love) certain types of assignments? Be sure to include some elaboration for each of the items in your list.
Digital Portfolio Challenge Fifteen:	**Share a current event that is connected to something you are learning in school.** Sometimes, the things that you are learning in school can feel completely divorced from "the real world" outside of school. The truth, though, is that if you pay careful attention, you will find LOTS of connections between things happening in the news and things that you are learning in school. Visit a news site and browse the current headlines. Find a headline that is connected to something you have learned about in school. Share that headline in your portfolio and explain how learning that you have done in school is connected to the topic covered in the current event.
Digital Portfolio Challenge Sixteen:	**Share an example of your BEST work.** Find a task from one of your classes that represents your BEST work. Share it in your portfolio. Then, tell us about it. How did you create it? What makes it exemplary? What lessons did you learn -- either about the content or yourself as a learner -- when you were creating it? How will you use those lessons to improve your work on future assignments?
Digital Portfolio Challenge Seventeen:	**Share an example of work that you improved through revision.** The best learners are always revising their work. Share an example of something that YOU have improved through revision. Show us your first draft or explain to us your original thoughts. Then, show us your final draft or explain to us your final thoughts. Point out specific places where you made your work better. Tell us HOW those changes made your work better. Tell us what you would do if you were to revise this work again.