

Creating Culturally Responsive Classroom Communities Portfolio Final Project

Overview: Your final project for this course is to create a comprehensive portfolio that showcases your learning, reflections, and growth throughout the term. This portfolio will serve as both a reflection tool and a practical guide to help you build an encouraging, engaging, and culturally responsive learning environment.

How: You will use the weekly assignments you've completed to put together a resource that demonstrates your understanding of how to create a welcoming environment that highlights trauma-informed practices as well as an inclusive classroom—one that is grounded in research, thoughtful routines, and systems that support all students.

Why are we doing a portfolio?

- Reflect on your learning and development over the course
- Demonstrate your ability to apply theories and research to real-life teaching practices
- Build a resource you can return to as you design your own classroom environment
- Showcase your understanding of trauma-informed practices and culturally responsive teaching

What to Include in Your Portfolio: Your portfolio should include the following weekly projects (in the order that makes the most sense to you). Each item should be accompanied by a brief reflection paragraph (3–5 sentences) explaining what you learned from the activity and how you might apply it in your classroom.

1. "Fill Your Cup First" Activity
2. Poster on Vicarious Trauma
3. Google Slide for your Teaching Presentation (include a link or images)
4. Empathy Mapping Activity
5. Visual on Trauma and Brain Research
6. Routines and Rituals Chart
7. Lesson Plan (incorporating the 4 areas of practice – use the provided template)
8. Emotional Regulation Toolkit
9. "Bag of Tricks" Toolkit
10. Strategic Plan for Building School-Community Partnerships

Reflection Section: At the end of your portfolio, you can choose one of the following ways to reflect on your learning:

1. **Written Reflection (3–5 sentences):** Describe what you learned from the activity and how you might apply it in your own classroom.

OR

2. **Visual Showcase:** Share a photo, video, or digital artifact (e.g., chart, slide, or classroom tool) that shows how you've already used—or plan to use—this strategy with students. Add a brief caption explaining its purpose and impact.

OR

3. **Voice or Video Reflection:** Record a short audio or video clip (1–2 minutes) sharing your takeaways and how the activity connects to your teaching practice.

Submission Instructions: You can use any of these platforms to submit your work:

- **Format:** Google Slides, Google Sites, PDF, or any digital format that allows for easy viewing
- **Due Date:** (INSERT DATE)
- **Submit via:** D2L

Final Tips

- Be creative!
- Make it yours—this is a portfolio you can carry into your teaching career.
- Use visuals, quotes, and formatting that reflect your personal teaching style.
- Don't stress about perfection—focus on depth of reflection and authentic connection to the course material.

Final Project Portfolio Rubric (150 points total)

Category	Thriving	Strong and Steady	Getting There	
Project Inclusion	All 10 projects are included and clearly presented	8–9 projects included or with minor issues	Fewer than 8 projects or incomplete entries	25

Reflections (any format)	Final project includes a thoughtful written, visual, or audio reflection showing application to practice	Final reflection is present; may lack depth or clarity	Reflection is missing or not clearly connected to practice	15
Application of Research/Theory	Demonstrates clear understanding and application of course concepts throughout portfolio	Some evidence of research and course concepts applied	Little or no application of key theories or research	20
Creativity & Organization	Well-organized, visually appealing, and easy to follow; creative use of format or visuals	Generally organized with some creative effort	Disorganized, hard to navigate, or lacks attention to presentation	15
Timeliness	Submitted on time	1-2 days late	More than 2 days late or not submitted	5