

8th Grade First Semester Portfolio and Essay

Due: -- Friday Jan. 12, 2018 **Value: 55 points**

The portfolio is designed for you to look at your progress, your accomplishments, where you started and where you are now, as well as where you want to go in the second semester in **English** class. Think of this as a quick overview of you in class -- your participation, your speeches, your essays, your understanding of literature, your writing. Much of your work is copied online in your Google Drive folder AND/OR already printed out.

Make sure all written work is included in your portfolio, including the grade and comments.

If you are printing work from the Drive, change the spacing to a single space. These pieces of writing will help you get a good look at your progress.

1. Collect first semester work and organize chronologically, with your most recent work first. Attach and fill out at least 10 assignments with supplied labels.
2. Design a **color** cover with your photograph (supplied by me) **and** a symbol that represents your effort in English. Attach a one-paragraph explanation-- what the symbol means and how it reflects you and your work in English class.
3. Type a four- to five-paragraph **reflective** essay about you this first semester. **Among** the following you *can* consider:
 - ❖ What was your best work? Why?
 - ❖ What was the most challenging assignment? Why? How did you do?
 - ❖ What new skills have you learned this semester?
 - ❖ How prepared for high school do you feel at this point? What do you need to work on to be ready?

You should have this essay in your google docs folder AND a printout of it as well in this *physical* portfolio.

4. Parent signature. Have a parent sign **on** the final draft of the essay. Also print name.
5. Order of Contents:
 - a. Cover with name on front and paragraph explanation of symbol.
 - b. Reflective essay with parent signature
 - c. At least 10 assignments, including **all** writing, that is, your essays, with rubrics.
 - d. This assignment sheet

This is a **reflective, personal** essay. Be thoughtful in your response. Do not just state the obvious here. (Example: Spelling is my best work because I am a good speller.) Reflecting means to look back at something, think about it, where you started, where you have come, how you got here, where you need to go.

Include all parts of the formal, personal essay, including an introductory paragraph with a grabber and a thesis, three body paragraphs with at least two examples or evidence and your commentary in each paragraph and a conclusion. Edit carefully for mechanics.

GRADING:

- ☐ Current Photo of you, cover symbol and one-paragraph explanation: **10 points**
(Mechanics matter)
- ☐ Contents: **20 points**
- ☐ Typed and Printed Essay: **25 points** (Mechanics matter)

Total: 55 points

(-5 no parent signature. Present yourself well!)