

English 9H Midterm Portfolio (100-point Midterm Exam Grade)

As a way of demonstrating your work over the course of this semester and your growth as a writer, you will be creating a digital portfolio. This will be a way to showcase your wonderful work and to demonstrate what you have learned to me, your parents, and your peers. It will also help you create specific goals for your writing moving forward. You will add to this portfolio throughout the remainder of the year.

Creating your digital portfolio

You may create your portfolio in any web platform you would like that allows you to meet the requirements below. If you do not have a preference, I suggest using Weebly.com. This site is easy to use, and it creates a very attractive website. Other popular sites are Wordpress.com and Tumblr.

I will be offering LUNCH tutorials on the following days if you need technological assistance -- or help with something else related to the midterm exam: 12/1, 12/3, 12/5, 12/8, 12/10. Bring your lunch, your computer, and your questions.

Additionally you can go [here](#) for Weebly's Beginner's Guide.

The contents of your portfolio

FIRST -- Please create tabs/pages for the following:

- HOME/LETTER TO READER
- WRITING (with links to Photo-Interview, Memoir, and Critical Review)
- FROM THE WRITER'S DESK (embedded Video Interview and Process Graphic)
- SEMESTER 2 GOALS

These should be distinct & separate areas that a reader can easily see and access.

[Here](#) is an example of one student's end-of-year portfolio from last year. Your mid-year portfolio won't be as full, but this model will show you how the pages/tabs work.

[Here](#) is an example of my midterm sample website without any content.

1.HOME/LETTER TO READER

- Write a letter to your reader in which you tell them what they can expect to find if they visit your portfolio. You might tell them what you want them to pay special attention to -- or share where you would like feedback. This is your space to introduce yourself as a writer. Do with it what you want.
- Your audience is: me, your parents, your peers, other readers of your portfolio.
- You should use an informal, friendly tone -- just like you're talking to the reader.

2. WRITING

- Link to all three pieces -- Photo-Interview, Memoir, Critical Review -- in Google Docs.

- Choose **either** the memoir or critical review to go back to, revise, and polish to perfection. **This should be a reflection of your end-of-the-semester skills.** Below this essay, write a thoughtful, thorough reflection that includes:
 - Why you chose to revise this piece
 - What you thought about and worked on as you revised
 - How the paper has changed since you originally wrote it
- Strengths/weaknesses short essays -- below the other two pieces of writing, provide a short response that indicates the following:
 - According to this piece, what are you able to do as a writer?
 - According to this piece, where do you have room for growth as a writer?
 - What are your plans for this piece in the future? Abandon? Revise? Redo? Something else?

3. FROM THE WRITER'S DESK

- **Interview:** You will be paired up to conduct middle-of-the-year interviews about Writing Workshop. We will be developing questions for these interviews as a class. They can be found in the MIDTERM EXAM sub-folder in HANDOUTS on my website. You will use your phones or computers to record these **on video**. You will then upload this video to your website.
- **Process Graphic:** By now, you should have learned a bit about what works for you in writing and what doesn't. Do you spend a long time planning? Do you mostly ignore planning, jump into drafting, and then spend a lot of time in revision? Do you rely on conferencing with teachers and peers along the way? What is YOUR personal writing process? Create a chart, graph, visual, image, etc. to share YOUR writing process. You can do this digitally and upload the file, or create it on paper, take a picture, and upload the image to your website. Click [here](#) for a student model. Click [here](#) for another model. Click [here](#) for a third model.

4. GOALS FOR SEMESTER 2

Before you launch into the second half of the year, take some time to reflect on what you have learned and are able to do at this point in the year. Then think about what you want to be able to do by the end of the year. What will it take? Consider the following topics to prepare a short essay or bulleted reflection:

1. the kind of writing you want to do
2. your writing process & habits
3. writing conferences
4. reading-writing connections
5. notebook upkeep
6. mentor texts
7. reading like a writer
8. peer feedback
9. notebook time
10. mini-lessons
11. writing time in class
12. other

Here are some examples of goals:

- Update and refer to my territories list once a week, so I can become accustomed to thinking and planning like a writer.
- Use writing more as an occasion for personal reflection: push myself to name and examine my thoughts and feelings.
- Focus: stick to one memory, topic, or big idea in each piece of writing.
- Finish another memoir and try to get it published.
- Work ahead of time to leave a few days for revision and conferring.

Submitting Your Portfolio

- In order to submit your portfolio, you must fill out the [MIDTERM EXAM PORTFOLIO SUBMISSION FORM](#). This form can also be found on my website under FORMS.
- **All portfolios must be submitted by 9:00 AM on Tuesday, December 16. This form is the only means through which I will accept portfolios.**

How Your Portfolio Will Be Assessed

Your portfolio will be assessed in the following categories: presentation, thoughtfulness, completion. **A complete rubric can be found [here](#).**

Presentation: Portfolios are organized and easily navigable; additional content such as background and font enhance the work rather than detract from it; website is typo-free and as polished as possible.

Thoughtfulness: Written reflections are rich, detailed, specific, convincing and thoughtful. They are enjoyable to read and portray the student's journey as a writer over the course of the semester.

Completion: All elements of the portfolio are present: 1 polished essay with reflection, two remaining essays with reflections, video interview, graphic/chart, Semester 2 Goals

Exceptional portfolios 98 points

Good portfolios 91 points

Adequate portfolios 83 points

Weak portfolios 75 points

Absent portfolios 0 points

On Exam Day

You will report to your exam room to complete your Quarter 2 Reading Reflection & Midterm Course Evaluation. You will need a COMPLETE list of all books you have read this year (including authors and number of pages). You may bring your Writer's/Reader's Notebook with you. **This assignment will count as your final Q2 grade.**