

WRITING INTRODUCTIONS TO PORTFOLIOS

Pre-Writing: Review the essays you revised for this course. Pick a total of 21-25 pages, depending on the option (A-D) you choose for compiling a portfolio. Arrive at a reasonable sequence for the essays or imagine a form, such as a series of linked articles on the web, a multi-media display in a gallery, or other, that would present the essays in a form you want. Try more than one arrangement and notice the different effects that result. Finally, choose one arrangement and jot down your reasons for choosing it.

Due Date: Drafts due during LEC 20; revisions due during LEC 21 with portfolio.

Length: Either 2 pages, for the short version, or 4-6 pages for a fuller version.

Purpose: To introduce a reader to the collection of essays you present in your portfolio and to consider the writing retrospectively in terms of content, style, technique, development of ideas, sequence, themes that recur, changes in your writing, and anything else you notice.

TIP: You may combine autobiographical and analytical essays; you may describe essays that do not yet exist as a way of filling in gaps and providing a fuller autobiography or collection of analytical papers. You may decide that your future work might include an autobiographical piece in response to each analytical one, or any other arrangement you wish. Be creative with the form; you may imagine any combination of media that exist, and some that do not yet exist: music; film; installation; website(s); links; painting; computer games; videos; a mattress with overhead video screen or a talking sofa that tells visitors lying or seated upon it about your essays; a hand-held device that provides text, music, visuals; and so on ad infinitum. Form matters; think of Griffin's form.

Brainstorm here for a bit: what has your experience of writing for this class been like? How could you best convey that--a room with early morning light effects, a voiceover of your roommate's or frat brothers' voices [unusually, all students in class were male], multiple versions of drafts and revisions projected on parallel screens or on top of each other, a female voice chanting, "comma slice," "best wording?", and "give an example"?

Also: Pick one piece of writing for a class anthology; I'll ask you next week for your choice.