The Portfolio

Overview
Portfolios work in different ways in different classes. Sometimes they are used to simply collect the work a student has done over a period of time. Sometimes they are used to mark progress via revision. And sometimes they are used as a way to assess student work-not simply just writing but also progress and effort in class.

The Portfolios you will turn in for this class will do all of these things. As you develop these portfolios each of you will engage in three activities: ***collection, selection, and reflection***. This will give you the opportunity to review your work, revise your writing, and think about what you have learned throughout the semester. You will showcase your progress throughout the semester through revision of your previous work. Another way you will show the knowledge you have developed about your writing is in a reflective introduction for your portfolio. Finally, I will use the portfolios as a way of assessing your effort, progress as a writer and as a student, and the quality of your written work.

Note: I can offer you two pieces of advice about portfolios: 1. Take the Introduction seriously. If you don't, I will know. You can't scam a scammer. I was a student in your position not so long ago. I know the tricks. It will only frustrate me if you waste my time with fluff that you don't mean. So take the cover letter analysis of your portfolio, and work this semester, seriously. Be honest and useful in it. 2. I value revision. I value students that have taken the time to attempt to grow as a person and a writer. If you have attempted good revisions, then you will be rewarded for it. If you say you've attempted revision but haven't, you'll be penalized. I could not be anymore straightforward here about what I will look for when assessing your portfolios (revision, a strong introduction, and how well your portfolio is developed).

Final Portfolio
Your final portfolio is your last opportunity to demonstrate to me everything you have learned throughout the semester. This portfolio should reflect development in your writing skills and critical thinking skills. In addition, it should be well polished. This is the time to worry about typos and editing and small details. This should be the best writing I have seen from you.

Please take all of these items and copy and paste into **one word document and upload to the designated spot in Blackboard.**

What to include:
1. **2 blog entries.** You may choose any two entries here. Try and select entries that showcase your careful reading and analysis skills. THESE DO NOT NEED TO BE REVISED. JUST INCLUDE THEM.
2. **Your revised profile essay**
3. **Your revised photo essay**
4. **Your revised/completed feature essay**
5. **Final Portfolio Introduction**. How you write it is up to you, just be sure to include the following:
   - Why are these your best blog posts?
   - What revision did you do in your formal writing? How has it improved or not improved your writing?
   - What have you learned about your reading and writing skills this semester?
   - What have you learned about this genre of writing?
6. Final Exam (to be written in class).

How I will Evaluate Your Portfolio

I am using something called "spec" grading to evaluate and assign a grade for your portfolio. The grade is the result of quality and revision. As explained in the syllabus, your work on your portfolio will determine 50% of your final grade.

In order to earn a "B" grade for that 50%

- You must turn in all required items listed above in the prompt.
- You must show revision of most formal writing assignments required
- You must have an introduction that explains your revisions
- You must showcase the skills learned in the course throughout your portfolio
- Your electronic portfolio must be, mostly, error free including grammar, mechanics, and links

In order to earn an "A" grade for that 50%

- You must turn in all required items listed above in the prompt.
- You must show revision of all formal writing assignments required
- You must have an introduction that explains your revisions and goes in depth with self reflection
- You must showcase the skills learned in the course throughout your portfolio in context of the course material
- Your electronic portfolio must be error free including grammar, mechanics, and links

In order to earn a "C" grade for that 50%

- You must turn in most required items listed above in the prompt.
- You must show revision of some of the formal writing assignments
- You must have an introduction
- You must showcase the skills learned in the course throughout your portfolio
- Your electronic portfolio must be, mostly, error free including grammar and mechanics.

If you do not meet the requirements for a "C" paper, you will fail the paper for that 35% of your grade.