

**Reflective Essay: My Experience Creating an ePortfolio**

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Creating, building and designing my Salt Lake Community College ePortfolio was both challenging and rewarding. I started with very little direction about what is expected in an ePortfolio. I didn't even realize there was a requirement by the school to have one. As I began to build the site, I saw the potential of what it could do for me throughout my education. When I decided to enhance the site to include multimedia, my desire to make it a great overall view of my education took shape even further.

I first found out about the requirement in one of my first semester classes. I was told I needed a place online to upload assignments and papers for my psychology class. Anxious to make sure I completed all my assignments as called for, I asked the teacher for more information and, though the teacher didn't give me specific guidance, another student said he had created his ePortfolio was set up on weebly.com and was very easy to get started. Later that day, I went to the weebly.com website and signed up for a free website where I could place my school work. I quickly created a few pages where I could load some of my course work and sent off the link to the teacher.

Truthfully, at the beginning of the process, I created the pages to meet the requirements of the classes I was taking. I quickly set up a basic site where I could upload my writing assignments and a reflective paper as called for. It was not a priority to make the site usable or easy to navigate. The idea of making the pages friendly, inviting or attractive was even less important. The demands of college, home and work were all pressing for my time. As I began adding assignments, I found I needed a way to organize the accumulating information. I looked for ways to create order in the pages. I first chose to create sections of classes based on the semester I had taken them. I knew this was how I remembered which classes I had been in and which classes I am currently taking. This was a helpful way for me to catalog my assignments.

As I started my second semester of classes, I was informed there was a specific layout that the school recommended. I found the information for the ePortfolio on the college's website and began to figure out how to better design my site to meet these requirements. At first, I thought it would be difficult to change things around and adapt my site to the recommended format. However, I created a new site and began to shuffle things around and found that it was easy to move pages around and manipulate the content of the pages. I added the pages needed, such as "Learning Outside the Classroom" and "Resume" though I didn't know what to add. This change helped me understand the extent to which I could include even more information about myself and my experiences and help link them altogether.

The final phase of the project has been the most rewarding. As I have been able to use multimedia, such as pictures and videos, to enhance the design and usefulness of the pages, I have been able to quickly learn how to use the drag and drop interface of weebly.com. It is very easy and makes adding, changing or deleting information quite effortless. I have also been able to experience the great reward of adding my own experiences through words, pictures and best of all videos. I look forward to being able to use my ePortfolio to show my school work and experiences.

I have gained great insights into myself through connecting my work, school experiences, and learning outside the classroom to my goals for both my schooling and life. Writing down my goals was an opportunity I hadn't taken advantage of for a few years and am grateful that I have done so. I know the experience of creating my ePortfolio has allowed me to bring all these aspects of my life into greater focus, which will help me in my journey through school and career.