

Essential Questions Portfolio Project
(Communication; Creative & Critical Thinking - Major Assignment)

Purpose: Your term project in Creative Writing requires you to demonstrate an exploration of different texts to deepen your understanding of *complex ideas about identity, others and the world*. You will demonstrate this through a *Portfolio*. A portfolio is a series of items that is organized around an idea/theme. To help you focus on an idea/theme that addresses a complex idea, you will select an *essential question* to explore (just like we did in the classroom).

Essential Question: An essential question involves asking an important question that recurs throughout one's life. Such questions are broad in scope and timeless by nature. Essential questions “are not answerable with finality in a brief sentence. Their aim is to stimulate thought, to provoke inquiry, and to spark more questions — including thoughtful questions — not just pat answers” (Wiggins & McTighe, 2005, p.106).

Portfolio: Once you have selected an essential question you will create 3 items that represent and respond to the essential question you are asking. Each item must be in a different style/presentation.

Portfolio items can include, but aren't limited to:

- Short Story (1000-1500 words)
- Drawings/Paintings/Collages (coloured with appropriate artist statements explaining the images/symbolism)
- Drama Script
- Journal Entries (minimum 3; with a total of 1000-1500 words)
- 3D Models
- Poetry Anthology (minimum 10; or 6 with included personal imagery/photography)
- Information Brochure
- Non-fiction article (1000-1500 words)
- Music Compositions (including an artist statement that explains what the different elements represent)
- Mini Documentary
- Performance
- Anything else you can come up with – just run it by me!

Assessment

You will receive marks in two ways: conferencing and presentations.

Conferencing: You will have weekly conferences with me to ensure that you are making progress, ask questions, and receive feedback. During the conferences you will be asked to self-evaluate your progress, use of class time/time management, and personal growth and learning.

Presentations: You will present each of your portfolio items to me, throughout the term, on the due dates provided below. The presentation will be one on one, where I will be able to ask you questions, and you will be able to explain why you chose to present your assignment the way you did. You will also need to explain how you answered your essential question within that assignment.

Due Dates:

You will have completed and presented **one (1)** of the Portfolio items in Final Copy by December 18th. Students will be given their presentation dates by random draw.

Your final **two (2)** Portfolio items will be completed and presented by January 17. Students will be given their presentation dates by random draw.

Self Evaluation: Portfolio Project

Competency	Evidence	Evaluation
Progress (<i>I have my idea; I can show that it has been started; I can discuss my plan; I know what I need to do to complete this assignment on-time</i>)		
Time Management (<i>I am using class time to work; I know how long it will take me to finish and ensure it will get done; I am not distracted by others, my phone, or other devices</i>)		
Personal Growth/Learning (<i>I can discuss something new I have learned; I can ask the teacher for questions/support; I can talk about different points of view and how I will present different points of view</i>)		

Based on the above criteria, evaluate each category for the week:

Emerging I am able to minimally meet some of the criteria above. I struggle to come up with evidence in each category.

Developing I can meet most of the criteria above. I can provide some evidence in each category.

Proficient I can meet all the criteria above. I can provide clear evidence in each category.

Extending I can go above and beyond the listed criteria by demonstrating insightful evidence and connections in each category.

Item/Text Evaluation: Portfolio Project

Competency	Evidence	Evaluation
<i>Content is original, creative, and engaging for your audience.</i>		
<i>Content includes required components (ie. addresses the essential question; appropriate length).</i>		
<i>Items show a sense of personal connection and thoughtful interpretation.</i>		
<i>Items are clear and purposeful within the conventions of the form (ie. you have created something in the appropriate style).</i>		
<i>Able to provide specific references to course content, other texts, personal experiences, and/or others.</i>		
<i>Writing contains few surface feature errors, which are noticeable only if looking for them.</i>		

Final Mark: _____