English Teaching Majors Writing Portfolio Requirement

Please present your completed portfolio to your advisor at the beginning (i.e., by the third week) of your final semester of your baccalaureate program. Your advisor will review the portfolio, return it to you with brief comments, and record that you have completed this graduation requirement.

Part of your preparation work for the English Teaching major will be to prepare a portfolio of writings selected from your undergraduate courses. As we are currently defining it, the purpose of the portfolio is two-fold: first, to present a minimum of six pieces of writing that you believe represent the range of your different writings or projects (electronic publications and visual materials can be included also); second, to reflect critically on your development as reader, writer and discussant in a short essay of three to four pages.

In your reflection, think about the learning processes that have occurred within individual course papers and the progress that you have made as a whole. Consider both successful and problematic, difficult yet significant learning experiences; the purpose of the portfolio is less to showcase your best work than to represent what and how you have learned from your undergraduate studies. Include papers with and/or without your teachers’ comments. You might write about what you see as the validity of a teacher’s grade and comments in relation to what you believe you learned and your own evaluation of the work.

The reflective essay can serve as a valuable, ongoing part of your education, for example, by making sense of your course work, synthesizing understandings, and by connecting what you have learned across the different courses that you have taken. Consider what you have discovered about your own learning styles, your strengths and areas to develop. The writing portfolio also will form a valuable basis for the education portfolio that you will prepare and present in the M.A.T. program.

Although you will present the portfolio in the spring term of your senior year, please save all of your course work during your sophomore and junior years from which you can select representative papers. Provide a table of contents clearly identifying the course number of each piece of writing, the reflective essay double-spaced with one-inch margins, and sample course-work essays/projects.

If you have any questions, please contact Prof. Laura Smith, English Teaching Coordinator.