

Portfolio System Explained

The Basic Idea

This is a non-grading system. Writing and reading will be prevalent throughout the semester. Students will not receive a letter grade for assignments, nor percentage points. Their work will instead be assessed on a pass/fail basis. If the work meets the requirements (which will be thoroughly explained) it will go into their portfolio, if it does not then they will be asked to revise their work, based on my feedback, by a given date (usually two days later) until it meets the requirements. There is no limit to how many times an assignment can be revised.

There will be more work assigned than necessary to complete a portfolio, or rather students will decide which assignments to do. For example, I will assign 4 Analyzing Author's Arguments, only 2 of which the student needs for their portfolio. This method highlights the impact of decision-making and organization.

How to Pass the Class

Each student will have a portfolio with an index of assignments that must be completed. It must contain no missing assignments to receive an A. For each assignment missing the grade will drop one letter; for example, 2 missing assignments would result in a C for the students' academic grade. If a student misses more than two assignments they cannot pass the class.

If an assignment is late, the student must mark it as such and give a reason for not turning it in on time. There are NO extensions given. If the reason is valid (i.e., excused absence, extraordinary circumstances) it will not count as a penalty. After 3 late penalties each late assignment will lower the final grade of the portfolio.

How to Read Powerschool

Each assignment has the option to be a) Collected, b) Incomplete, c) Missing. Collected means that it has been initialled, approved, and placed in the student's physical portfolio. Incomplete means that the student did turn it in and is in the process of being revised. Missing means I did not receive the assignment from the student. The "Projected Academic Grade" is reflective of the work that has been turned in and the expected, not final, academic grade. The "Participation Grade" is based on the students' citizenship in the classroom, i.e. respecting their peers, participating in activities, being engaged in class. The portfolio itself is also always handy to students and parents as a check in. I encourage you to email me if you are having trouble in any way.