

A Excellent

An “A” portfolio will adhere to **all** the following components:

- Demonstrates original thinking, utilizes critical thinking, clearly writes for the appropriate audience and purpose.
- Reveals the student’s enthusiasm and engagement with writing, as well as careful preparation of the portfolio.
- Essays are well structured and organized; ideas are coherent, developed, and support a clear thesis.
- Essays supported by or based on outside reading sources demonstrate strong comprehension and successfully summarize, paraphrase, and/or quote.
- Essays show variety in rhetorical mode and writing style.
- Each writing assignment adheres to the requirements of the prompts; essays at the 250 level are at least 3 full pages.
- In-class essay is a complete essay with a summary of the article that reveals strong comprehension and contains fully-developed body paragraphs with original and convincing evidence in support of a clear thesis addressing the prompt.
- Cover letter is polished, effectively introduces the student-author, and includes well-developed analysis and reflection on the portfolio process and/or the essays within.
- Few errors in mechanics, demonstrates editing and revision, sentences are clear, well-formed, and show variety and complexity.
- No evidence of plagiarism (adequately utilizes MLA formatting; works cited page and in-text citations are provided for outside sources, particularly if a research paper is included).

B Commendable

A “B” portfolio will adhere to **most or all** the following components; some submitted pieces may be stronger than others:

- Demonstrates critical thinking, writes for the appropriate audience and purpose.
- Writing generally reveals student’s enthusiasm and engagement, as well as careful preparation of the portfolio.
- Essays show attention to structure and organization; ideas are developed and support a thesis.
- Essays supported by or based on outside reading sources demonstrate good comprehension and successfully summarize, paraphrase, and/or quote.
- Essays show some variety in style.
- Each writing assignment adheres to the requirements of the prompts; essays at the 250 level are at least 3 pages.
- In-class essay is a complete essay with a summary of the article that reveals good comprehension and contains fully-developed body paragraphs with convincing evidence in support of a thesis addressing the prompt.
- Cover letter is proficient, introduces the student-author, and includes analysis and reflection on the portfolio process and/or the essays within.
- May contain some errors in mechanics; demonstrates editing and revision; sentences are clear, well-formed and show some variety and complexity.
- No evidence of plagiarism (adequately utilizes MLA formatting; works cited page and in-text citations are provided if a research paper is included).

C Passing

A “C” portfolio may adhere to only **ONE** or some of the following components; some submitted pieces may be stronger than others:

- Demonstrates some critical thinking but may be flawed or inconsistent; attempts to write for the appropriate audience and purpose.
- Reveals adequate preparation of portfolio and engagement in writing.
- Essays may need work on structure and organization, but are relatively coherent; ideas in support of thesis may be underdeveloped.
- Essays supported by or based on outside reading sources demonstrate comprehension but may occasionally show slight misreading of texts; summarizing, paraphrasing, and/or quoting skills may need further development.
- Essays may not show variety.
- Each writing assignment adheres to the requirements of the prompts, though some may fall slightly under page length requirements or have minor formatting issues.
- In-class essay is an essay that may be underdeveloped, contain errors that make the essay difficult to read, and/or reveal misreading of the article or prompt. This essay may be strong in some areas but weak in other important areas.
- Cover letter introduces student-author and portfolio essays but may be underdeveloped and/or contain multiple errors.
- Essays contain some mechanical errors; some sentences may be difficult to follow because of wording.
- Any evidence of plagiarism is very minor and appears to be unintentional.

D or F Not Passing

A “D or F” portfolio may adhere to only **ONE** or some of the following components; whether it is a “D” or an “F” depends on severity, degree and/or number of components involved:

- Essays do not demonstrate critical thinking and/or may not write for the appropriate audience and purpose.
- Portfolio was not carefully prepared.
- Essays lack structure, organization, development, and/or thesis.
- Essays supported by or based on outside reading sources demonstrate misreading and/or do not successfully summarize, paraphrase, and/or quote.
- Essays do not show variety.
- One or more of the writing assignments do not fulfill the requirements of the prompt, or may fall seriously under page length requirements.
- In-class essay may be incomplete, underdeveloped, and contain errors that make the essay difficult to read and/or reveal misreading of the article or prompt.
- Cover letter is missing or seriously underdeveloped, and/or it may be off topic, and/or it may contain multiple errors.
- Poor mechanics distract the reader, sentence-level problems make comprehension of ideas difficult.
- There’s evidence of serious plagiarism.