

Title of Session: e-Portfolios
Moderator: Lynne Wolters
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Room: e-Portfolio Group

LynneW: Welcome to our April pro dev session for the special interest group "E-Portfolio Discussion Group".

LynneW: I am Lynne Wolters the facilitator for this group.

LynneW: I come to you from Vancouver, WA

LynneW: Andrew, please introduce yourself.

AndrewAB: I'm a substitute teacher that's currently renewing my credential at San Diego State University.

LynneW: Welcome.

JeffC: I'm on Helpdesk here at Tapped In... always interested in sessions.

LynneW: Since we are such a small group today...

LynneW: Andrew - do you have anything specific you want to discuss regarding eportfolios?

LynneW: Jeff, do you have questions or resources to share?

JeffC: nope

LynneWsmiles

AndrewAB: I'm really here to learn what it is all about. I'm in the social science field (high school), are there any good tips/examples that you may have?

LynneW: We have many resources here in the group room. Posted on the group room desktop is a graphic that explains the levels of complexity that eportfolio creation can move through.

LynneW: Additionally, there are numerous links to online resources, presentations, and research on the use of academic and employment focused eportfolios.

AndrewAB: I see. What subject do you see most eportfolios in?

LynneW: Andrew, have you ever been required to complete an eportfolio?

AndrewAB: I have never done an eportfolio.

LynneW: An eportfolio can be focused within one subject area or unit.

LynneW: It can also be a showcase of learning and professional achievements over the course of time.

LynneW: You begin with clearing understanding the purpose of the eportfolio and the audience it is being created for.

LynneW: A good deal of pre-planning is necessary to use eportfolios in any academic environment.

AndrewAB: So what is the biggest difference between an eportfolio and on that a student may do for a class? Is it mainly the multi-media aspect?

Lynne W: People often think an eportfolio is like a scrapbook you put everything from a class or a degree into.

LynneW: That is NOT the case.

LynneW: You carefully select artifacts of learning and provide reflection upon what, how, when you learned.

LynneW: Each artifact tells a stand alone story and all together create a cohesive whole - beginning, middle, end.

LynneW: As a teacher you can have the eportfolio serve any broad or focused purpose.

LynneW: For a classroom - single subject - purpose:

LynneW: I would consider it as a tool for a long unit of study.

LynneW: Say, the civil war.

LynneW: First, as a teacher you would have the benchmark standards that you want to address.

AndrewAB: Have you came across any amazing eportfolios in Social Science or in Spanish? Those are the two subjects I usually substitute for?

LynneW: I would rather ask you what your purpose would be in assigning eportfolios as a substitute teacher.

LynneW: Do you have long-term assignments?

AndrewAB: Not really. It's for mainly when I hopefully get a full-time job here in California, which are harder and harder to get due to the budget cuts.

LynneW: You need to be there long enough to teach computer skills, graphic / image preparation skills, perhaps video and/or audio editing skills, and software orientation before focusing on the learning strategies you will employ.

LynneW: I totally understand Andrew. I'm an unemployed teacher myself.

AndrewAB: I see.

LynneW: At its simplest level, you can simply use Word or PowerPoint.

LynneW: Or use a simple templetized website.

AndrewAB: Like questgarden?

JeffC: or use a site like open source portfolio initiative <http://osportfolio.org/> or one of the other sites that Lynne has in the Welcome box.

LynneW: Well, QuestGarden is designed for creating WebQuests.

LynneW: WebQuests are not the same as eportfolios.

AndrewAB: Well, I meant as an example of an online example of a set template for a user.

LynneW: Although, a webquest could be one of the artifact generators for the eportfolio.

LynneW: You could use Google Docs.

LynneW: It is online, password protected, and documents can be shared.

AndrewAB: I've seen Google Docs before, briefly.

LynneW: You could use Moodle (content management system)

AndrewAB: So do you mainly see eportfolios in the business world or in academics, what level?

LynneW: Start with what you have available and grow the eportfolio assignment as you become more comfortable with the process.

LynneW: E-Portfolios are being used as a means of authentic assessment in K-12.

LynneW: Teachers are using them as part of their national accreditation process.

LynneW: Teachers and student teachers use them to attract employment.

LynneW: Building principals like them as a means of having teachers demonstrate their own growth in the job.

LynneW: Creative businesses and new media businesses tend to use them more than more traditional business environments.

LynneW: I have seen e-portfolios, worked collaboratively, for elementary students.

AndrewAB: So the creator of the eportfolio would send it to the group/teacher/interviewer via the internet?

LynneW: The adults in their life have to help with voice recording, etc.

LynneW: It is my belief it varies widely.

LynneW: Some student teachers provide their eportfolios on CD along with the application.

LynneW: Some pass their CD to the interview committee following the interview.

LynneW: Some wait to go over the eportfolio with the building principal when an offer may be made or in a call back situation.

LynneW: Most HR departments don't really know what to do with a CD submitted with an application.

LynneW: Now, most applications are online.

AndrewAB: So for a high school classroom, the average time that the eportfolios exhibit is over the whole school year right?

LynneW: Having a website where your eportfolio is hosted is great in that instance because you can easily provide the link address in your written materials.

LynneW: Generally, that would be the case.

LynneW: It is typical for it to be a part of the senior year process.

LynneW: The language arts and social studies teachers may be primarily responsible for guiding students through the process.

LynneW: However, upper elementary and middle school teachers have taken on eportfolios as well.

AndrewAB: Yes. Many seniors have a portfolio to do in California schools. It's mainly a presentation in front of a panel adjoined with a binder of their work.

LynneW: Depends on the resources available to you in or near your classroom.

LynneW: I have seen eportfolios created for high school communications, graphic design, web design, manufacturing, and marketing classes.

LynneW: It is assigned at the beginning of a semester and due, generally, at the end of the school year.

AndrewAB: So on the left hand side of the screen are the tools to create an eportfolio, right?

LynneW: I have seen them created to showcase ELL learner's growth in speaking and writing.

LynneW: Under the WELCOME are links from previous sessions.

Lynne W: Across to the FAR left, click on LINKS and there you will find all of the group room resources.

LynneW: I'll let you look around and explore.

AndrewAB: Very well. Do you want to shut things down now? The discussion has been around 35 minutes now.

LynneW: Yes.

LynneW: I'll be around for a bit.

LynneW: However, this concludes today's session. Thank you for coming.

AndrewAB: Thank you for all your advice. Have a great rest of the week.