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IDS 493: ELECTRONIC PORTFOLIO PROJECT

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December 07, 2023

Abstract:

This reflective essay will demonstrate the process of creating my portfolio and choosing the best artifacts while collecting current material for this class to be displayed. I was unsure if I had the capabilities to pull work from other classes that showed moments where I have plugged in every sense of knowledge to be successful. I believe this portfolio has helped me do just that. When I started out on the portfolio, I begin to build confidence as I search through older work that I have accomplished because at one point I shocked myself on my improvement which I did not notice until I started collecting artifact. I believe through my trials it did not just build me up to be a good student but also a leader. With this portfolio it will display exactly what skills and artifacts I will provide to show my progression throughout my education that makes me a great leader. I will be discussing the main topics in the class that helped me create this portfolio, which is collecting, skills, and the definition of a portfolio. The artifacts that I am using will be displayed with videos of self-reflection, PowerPoints, and essays.

Keywords: collect, artifacts, portfolio

In my portfolio I have decided to add my weekly discussions to show my mindset from the start of the class and my fearful outlook to the confidence I grew throughout the assigned readings and responses. I think this is a great outlook because it shows progression through my work and where my mind was currently at through the semester as I articulate in my responses on the portfolio and my outlook on what I thought I could offer. I included others perspective in my work because it doesn't give a bias outlook on how I view myself but responses from professors in other classes to show my true potential and skills. The three classes I chose to use to present my skills was Interdisciplinary studies (300W), design thinking (CPD 414), and leadership ethics (CPD410).

In this class since it was mainly discussions on portfolio process and meaning, it gave several examples on how different people are and their strengths and experience is what makes them different from others which also attracts employers. I learned what artifacts are and the importance of keeping your work organized. I also learned that things I am proud of need to be in a separate folder, so I cannot just show great work but also strides it took to accomplish an assignment. It is not always about what I received as a grade but also what I learned as I was completing the work as well. I read teacher responses and my responses whether it was to essay requirements or discussions and feel proud of what I submitted.

Portfolio

The main theme in this IDS493 class is creating an portfolio that shows personality but also struggles to the journey of accomplishments. This is not to just show the best work but the work

that I am most proud of whether that is in education, internships, and even work experience. It's a true self reflection of late nights staying up and putting forth the effort to be where I am today. I realized that the portfolio also shows a side of expression. It pulls out creative, organized and attractive things about a person to build courage. No portfolio should be the same because each walk of life that an individual experiences will be different based on courses taken and interest in life. I have created my portfolio in an friendly easy to maneuver way so that it will not cause confusion as it is being viewed by those that know nothing about me or the courses I have taken. I provided in my portfolio a sense of myself by uploading photos to become more personal with my audience and give them a visual on who I am.

Collecting

In the reading "The Process of Portfolio keeping," it mentioned the audience as the target of how we need to choose what needs to be displayed and how. A quote they used that was eye catching that guided my work was, "A good rule of thumb with e-portfolios is that readers should be able to get to anyplace in your work from anyplace in your work." In other words when collecting your work, it needs to be strategic and well planned before just uploading any documents that show progress. The layout should be selected for display purposes and then from there the tabs need to be well organized so that it makes sense for each skill chosen. My thoughts initially were that I didn't have anything to display for the classes I took until I went through all my assignments and looked over my past work. The items that I collected where things that impressed myself and made me ask myself "did I write this?" It becomes rewarding and should be shown as progress when making a selection.

Skills

Skills are another word for strengths possessed by a person that are strong enough to be acknowledged whether that is a soft skill or a hard skill. A hard skill is important because it displays what educational gain was learned by an individual. With soft skills people are sometimes born with or learn throughout life whether that is working in a team, at a job, or even meeting new friends. In the article provided in week three of this class it shows how employers are more interested in soft skills as I quote from the Junior Achievement of South Florida, Top Soft Skills In The 21st Century Workplace, “Employees with strong soft skills have the ability to grow and flourish in any environment due to the fact that they have experience and interpersonal skills that make adapting easier than those who lack such skills.” The takeaway from this statement is that no matter how much educational background you have it is important to be able to teachable with growth potential. Most jobs are willing to teach the task, but personality and personal strengths can make or break a person. I took this statement and ran with it because I did underestimate my hands on experience with my major but realized that I already own so many soft skills that can be shown throughout with my creativity and openness.

Interdisciplinary studies

I decided to display the IRP Model, this model shows thought process visually by creating PowerPoints with scenery and workshops for the breakdown of ideas on paper. It helped me conquer brainstorming and was the most difficult for me since I never know where to start when it comes to writing or pinpointing important information. I had to choose three different disciplines that related to my chosen topic that all worked together with their own twist of perspective where it is similar but said differently. This is a great skill to have when it comes to critical thinking because you have to not be in your own brain but learn how to understand others with different

disciplines. Just because my major is interdisciplinary that should not limit me only to that but give me the perspective of how other majors think when it comes to topics. This skill made me a team player but also understanding to how others think.

Design Thinking (CPD 414)

This is my second skill that I have added to my portfolio because it displays innovation by problem solving. This course allowed me to think out of the box and see what is needed to help others and make life easier by being creative and brainstorming in a wide range instead of minimizing my thoughts. This class was truly difficult because I never think about what can make life easier for others in certain situations until I had to work with a team of people and come up with a creation for cancer patients that have to carry items for chemo. I had to learn to not go with my emotion and expectations but listen to others and empathize with their needs in order to make what fits the needs of others. It is a skill to place others first and also be creative with ideas that are limitless.

Leadership morals (CPD 410)

My last skill I mentioned is leadership because this is my major, I did enjoy this class because it also created a sense of self reflection. It made me change the views of myself and made me think about how I want to be viewed by others. I learned how to have morals that are consistent and ethics that are not one tracked but better others around me to create growth. For a healthy workplace environment, I will need to not take control but teach others that they have control and how to display it in a respectful and receptive way. It is important to treat everyone like a person that matters and learn those around me instead of changing others to what I want them to be. This skill is not easy in any means, but it is a very powerful skill because it creates healthy relationships and encourages others to do what's right.

Conclusion

The audience of a portfolio should always be in mind when collecting information to be displayed to others. It is important to make sure that it is attractive but also professional so it can be used for educational but also for potential employers. Having an portfolio it makes resumes more appealing and intriguing to learn more than just job history but the growth of an individual. With taking this IDS493 class I learned more than I could about myself than the subject because that is what a portfolio does it shows progression and course work that has been accomplished and improved me as a person. Improvement for this course is key and also self-reflection on success is the main priority.

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