

Reflective Essay

Frankie Wright

Old Dominion University

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Dr. Gordan Phan

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Abstract

This ePortfolio has opened my eyes to many things I would never remember and experiences that I would never value until looking back on them for this certain project. In this reflective essay I take a layout of each of the skills I value the most and the main abstracts or papers that I relate to those skills. Looking back at these, when doing these projects in the moment I did not realize the skill sets I ended up learning from doing them. Even if it was something small it was still a lesson to be learned that it is not necessarily academic. There are also some artifacts that I do not even remember doing so refreshing my mind of the things that I am capable of is important. Going to two different colleges has given me the greatest lessons and this will forever be something that I am grateful for; to be able to say I went to Wagner College as well as Old Dominion University.

Creating my Portfolio: While creating my portfolio I ran into many issues in the beginning. Trying to navigate the website and figuring out how to use every part to make sure my portfolio looks the best it possibly can was difficult initially. After looking at the different websites that I can use I ultimately chose to use WordPress because I thought it was the easiest and had prior knowledge of using it because of a class in the past. Another problem that I usually run to in all these kinds of creative projects is the freedom of creativity. A lot of people flourish with this, but I always find it difficult to not have a certain layout when it comes to the look of my website or portfolio. When I am given a layout, it allows me to focus more on the content I am writing but when there is creative freedom, I feel I focus too much on the things that do not really matter, for example, the themes and colors of the website. For an ePortfolio however, this is important because they must be designed to catch the eyes of employees to other classmates. After figuring out how to use WordPress I found it easier to write down my thoughts more effectively and was able to write down quicker and finish quicker. “Our prior experiences and expectations shape how we perceive the world around us, sometimes in unexpected ways” (Imunoz 1).

When looking back at the experience of making the ePortfolio for this project it had me reflect on my whole time as a college student. The experiences I have gone through the past 4 years and the different projects and assignments that I have accomplished will forever be the base of the skills that I have acquired and value the most. When choosing the skills that I value the most it was a little difficult, especially when I had to tie it into artifacts that I have shown in the past. I credit a lot of my skills and lessons I have acquired to baseball; it has taught me so much. From the ups and downs of a season, how to deal with injuries, how to deal with bad coaches, dedication, responsibility and most importantly how to work with a team. It taught me

how to not let obstacles block my path to where I want to go and with what I want to accomplish and I think that is the most valuable lesson that it could have taught me, this is because it opened my mindset to learning even more. It made me eager to learn so many more lessons.

Skill 1: Teamwork

My first artifact I chose to look at was pertaining to this skill was a project that I did my junior year of college at Wagner College. This project looked at the effectiveness of eco-friendly straws and how we can market them to a group of people without having the harsh consistency of paper straws but the eco-friendly appeal of them. I worked in a group of 3 on this project and we all ended up doing our fair share of the project. This helped me work as a team because prior to this project I did not know the people that I was working with and had to learn what kind of people they were and how I could help. The objective was to write a 15-page paper then to make a PowerPoint persuading other people to use our practical product. We each took different research approaches then compromised on what we should do and how we should do it. As said in this article, "Through dialogue, both parties in a conflict can come to a new, agreed position on an issue. Interestingly, where there is opportunity for true dialogue, we can agree without having to compromise" (Open Learning 1).

My second artifact was also from my junior year of college in a finance class. Our objective of this project was to find a stock that all our team members enjoyed and follow it for a bit to see what the stock ultimately does at the time of the project. We had to follow the stock all semester so this took a lot of teamwork to do so. The stock we chose to do was Sony and at the end of the semester as our final project we had to present our stock to the rest of the class. This was also with people I did not know so this helped my teamwork skill as well.

The last artifact for this skill I chose was a case study from my COMM421 class. In this project we had to look at a case study that included conflict and determine what steps they should do to solve this conflict. The story ended up having a compromise solution as well. “The compromising style means giving up less than the obliging style, but it does not achieve a win-win situation. It is a compromise between the two parties, and both will lose with respect to some of their interests” (Wang 1). This helped me learn teamwork because it was a more descriptive look at how to solve conflict which is very important in a team setting.

Skill 2: Technological Knowledge

The first artifact I chose to represent this skillset was the hootsuite Social media marketing certification. Hootsuite is an online social media management website that offers certifications in certain things. This certificate signifies that I have knowledge in social media marketing.

The second artifact that I decided to use was my Final paper for my IDS 300 class. In this paper I wrote about how scammers are using technology to steal money and other things from people, more specifically the elderly. “Financial institution staff are critical in the fight against financial exploitation as they may be one of the first to notice suspicious activity. These resources can help bankers, credit union staff, and others serve customers, clients, and members as they age” (CFPB 1). This artifact shows that I am aware of what is going on with technology nowadays and that there are recourses against these scammers.

The last artifact I chose for this skill is I presentation I used my junior year for a computer class where we had to show a PowerPoint about any topic of our choosing. I chose to

use technology in baseball. It is a new thing where technology has really taken over baseball with new things like a trackman device, rapsodo and radar guns.

Skill 3: Attention to Detail

The first artifact that I chose was a final book report I did in one of my classes my senior year. I wrote about a book called the “all blacks” they were a rugby team who was one of the best teams ever. They had a book about leadership and for this book report I had to pick out the most important details and write them down in the essay. “The fourth lesson in this book is about responsibility and about being a leader, not a follower. Each player, according to Kerr, should take responsibility for their actions and expected to take ownership in their role on the team” (Kerr 1).

The second artifact was a reflection essay of digital leadership. In all reflection papers you must pick out the details that matter the most to you. In this class I picked out the importance of a digital footprint to write about most in my paper. I had to have a good attention to detail to remember all of what I put in this reflection paper.

The last artifact that I chose was another final paper my junior year at Wagner. This was from a history class; in this class we had to pick 10 sources for our topic and pick out details of each source and write about them. Being very detailed in this paper was important because without picking out the best details you would have to surf through all kinds of word fillers. This was one of my favorite research papers I’ve ever done, very surprisingly.

Conclusion

In my college experience I have been met with many obstacles and many things that have made me overcome the hardest tasks and some easy ones. Being a baseball player while also being in school has taught me so many lessons. Learning how to pick out details, as well as present those certain details has given me such a better understanding on how to learn to do new things as well as get better at things that I already know. It is important to be an interdisciplinary thinker in any field because broader thinkers tend to listen better and learn better from experiences that they face. They are more open to things that others may see as obstacles and instead of giving up they keep pushing to learn more.

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