

# The Mind the Gap Template: Using ePortfolios to Demonstrate Student Learning

Old Dominion University

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# Activity

Please freewrite in response to the following questions:

1. How familiar are you with ePortfolios?
2. Why might you be interested in ePortfolios?
3. What questions do you have regarding ePortfolios?

# Expanding English Gen Ed eP Initiative

## CCCCs Principles and Practices in Electronic Portfolios

- Mirror Program Outcomes
- Create Accessible ePortfolio
- Use Faculty-Informed Design



# Improving Disciplinary Writing (IDW)

- Provides workshops, support, and internal grant system
- Focused on writing-intensive (“W”) courses
- In AY 16/17 curriculum: 40% of majors still suggested writing-intensive (“W”) courses +5 semester after (‘C’) courses

“Writing Gap”



# Activity: Exploring the Showcase

Please take a few minutes to look through some examples of showcase portfolios at a peer ePortfolio program: [Auburn ePortfolio Project](http://bit.ly/epexs18) (<http://bit.ly/epexs18>)

Please identify an example you would like to discuss, recording the student's name.

- Takes notes regarding whether you think it is an effective or ineffective website/ portfolio.
- What stands out to you?
- What did you like?
- What did you not like?
- What did you expect to see but perhaps didn't?

# Why a Template?

This initiative sought to design a general template for Writing instructors which was informed by their colleagues. Purely optional, we hoped the template would lessen the burden of tech on new adopters as well as encourage faculty to recognize the value of archiving when connected to a showcase portfolio.

# Why Wordpress?

- Craft “in-house”
  - Hosted by ODU
  - Exportable
  - Student Ownership/ Access Control
  - Pre-built structure that can be then customized
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# WordPress Template Demonstration

**"Mind the Gap" Template**

[ABOUT ME](#) [WRITING SAMPLES](#) [INFORMAL WRITING](#) [REFLECTION](#) [BLOG](#)

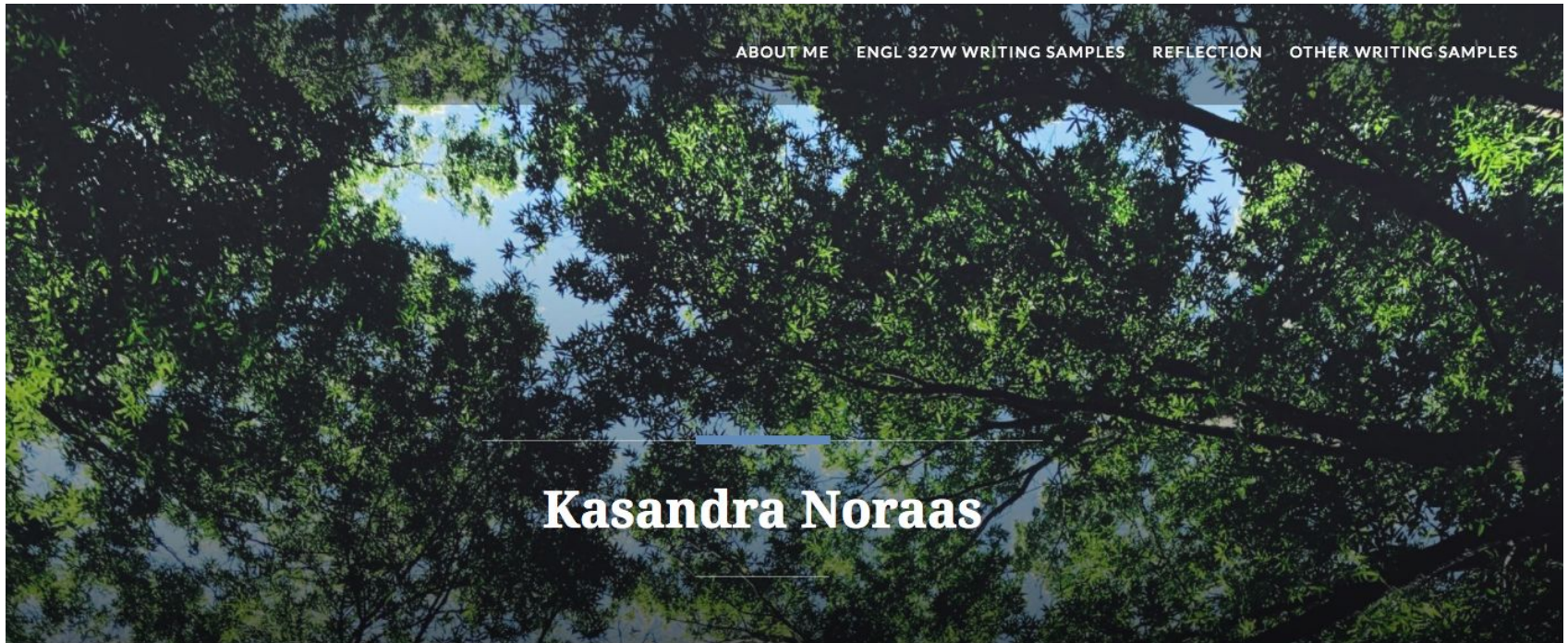
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**Student Name**

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# Student Example



# IDW Faculty Feedback

## **What were your initial expectations in participating in this project?**

“After the workshop, I anticipated having to do a lot more support... They were much more comfortable with tech than when I was throwing Drive at them. I do think the template was helpful to them because they didn’t have to do the building; a student tried without the template and wasn’t successful. All the pieces they needed were already there.”

## **Did participating in this project impact your pedagogy? Or your view of ePortfolios?**

“[This approach] reinforced my pedagogy. This hasn’t happened in awhile. This happens with kids -- 9th graders. I haven’t before had ODU students say, “Now I know I can do it.” It is important to give them models...They wanted to do this again in other courses.”

## **Did the pre-designed ePortfolio template foster reflection? If so, how?**

“The template required me to rethink how I ask for reflection, as I’m asking them about themselves as professionals in 327. I asked them to reflect on what their professional identity was and how these documents could help them demonstrate that. It also showed me that they needed archives from other courses.”

# Other Options



Use free web-builders such as [Wix](#), [Weebly](#), [Google Sites](#) (Classic or New).

Provide students with a list of required pages and content to guide their construction. [Example](#)

## Or Create a Site Template on Classic Google Sites

- On a computer, open a site in Classic Google Sites.
- At the top right, click More actions Manage site.
- Click Publish this site as a template. If you don't see this option, you can't share your site as a template.
- Enter a template name and description.
- Click Submit.



# IDW Mind the Gap Workshop

ODU English Faculty  
April 30 th, 9 am - 3:00 pm  
Burgess Room

# Contact Us

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