

Reflection Essay

Introduction

Throughout this course, we have been preparing ourselves to create and finalize our ePortfolios. I have found myself challenged in finding the right artifacts to include, but have also been allowed to be reflective looking back on past courses and assignments. In my ePortfolio I chose to specifically highlight three skills which are skills in Research, Analysis, and Critical Thinking and Comprehension. I believe that these skills are essential, and that the artifacts I included portray my effectiveness in them.

Research Skills

The first artifact under my Research Skills tab that I chose to include was a powerpoint research presentation I did in my course Social Science and Crime Mapping. Throughout this course, we worked on various assignments using the ArcGIS system to create maps based on data. In this assignment, I was able to read an article about the correlation between hurricanes and domestic abuse, all while researching and analyzing the data. With this assignment, researching was required. I was able to visually see how the data the author had gathered corresponded with the map comparing the two variables.

The second artifact under my Research skills tab that I chose to include was a paper about the rising topic in the cybersecurity world, Artificial Intelligence. With this assignment, we were allowed to choose a topic in the field of cybersecurity, and then where to research several subcategories of our chosen topic. This assignment was more open in a way, because we were

able to not only choose our own topic, but also to choose every article to back up our research and topic.

The third artifact under my Research Skills tab that I chose to include was a paper I wrote regarding a cyber incident. For this assignment we were to choose a cyber attack, research it, and present it in a way where it is understandable to most people. This assignment required me to use my research skills among others including analysis. To me, this assignment also shows my growth as a writer and researcher. I believe that while the paper is good, my other works show improvement in both the flow and technical aspects like the reference page and headers.

Analytical Skills

The first artifact I chose to show under my Analytical Skills tab was a writing assignment where I had to analyze a job ad in the field that I wish to work in. This assignment allowed me to analyze a job posting and see what skills I already had and what skills I would need to acquire in order to get a job in the field I desired. This assignment allowed me to see how my studies have prepared me for life after college, and also allowed me to gain skills that would help the eventual job hunting process easier.

The second artifact I chose to show under my Analytical Skills tab was a case analysis on privacy. This assignment required me to analyze a case presented alongside the teachings and theories of certain authors. This assignment was in my Cybersecurity Ethics class, a class that has definitely grown my analytical skills. My own professor noted the growth in my analysis and

writing between just my first and second case analysis. This class has allowed me to grow and develop a much needed skill, especially in the field of cybersecurity.

The third artifact I chose was a writing assignment where I had to analyze a text in regards to moral reasoning. This particular moral reasoning was that of Confucianism. This assignment was also from my Cybersecurity Ethics course, a course that heavily requires one to be able to analyze and articulate well. For this assignment, I read a short story, “The Year of the Rat,” (Qiufan) and then analyzed it while referring back to and comparing it to how it would line up with Confucianism morals. I was not knowledgeable in this aspect, but part of being able to analyze comes with being able to understand and comprehend.

Critical Thinking and Comprehension Skills

The first artifact I chose to present my Critical Thinking and Comprehension Skills was an assignment dealing with OPSEC, or Operations Security. This assignment required me to learn about Operations Security, and use what I learned to actually showcase the knowledge and skills. I was able to demonstrate my understanding and ability to protect my critical information using a specific software. At the end of the assignment, I was able to put my critical thinking skills to use and discuss how what I just learned and practiced would be applied and used in real world situations.

The second artifact I chose to present my Critical Thinking and Comprehension Skills was a policy analysis paper. I feel like analyzing policies is one of the best ways to practice this skill set. This assignment required me to first understand the policy in which I was going to be

analyzing. Oftentimes, policies use terms that I don't use in everyday life, so it generally takes more time to comprehend exactly what is being presented. After understanding the policy, I had to relate it back to real world situations, which shows in the end that I understood and comprehended what I just read and learned about.

The third artifact I chose to present my Critical Thinking and Comprehension Skills was an assignment from my Network Security class where I was to plan out how to wire a high school. I remember my professor providing very vague instructions for this assignment for the purpose of us having to use our critical thinking skills. It frustrated me, because having detailed instructions ensures that I know exactly what I need to do and include in an assignment, but with vague instructions, it would not be that way. This assignment required me to use my skills and what I learned throughout that course and put them into my assignment. I had to be smart in what I chose, as I wanted to stay within a certain budget to be efficient.

Conclusion

Having your previous works to look back on is such a valued aspect of academics. I think that sorting and organizing them makes reflecting even easier. Beyond reflection, it is also a great way to showcase to your employers your skills and even specific instances in which your skills have been used.

References

Qiufan, C. (n.d.). The Year of the Rat (pp. 23–49). essay.