

## Digital Portfolios: A Wide Variety

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### Abstract

*This project will showcase a variety of samples that can be included in a digital portfolio. Samples will include select articles, creative pieces, pieces that illustrate editing skills, and pieces that include design elements. This will help students understand that a portfolio is a wide collection of pieces that are not restricted to one specific style of writing or media.*

Although employers regularly want and seek out digital portfolios from potential employees, they are rarely used. This is a missed benefit on the part of the hiree. A portfolio showcases a potential employee's skills far more than a simple one-page resume or included additional page cover letter can. With a digital portfolio, a person can showcase their best works, whether it be photos they've taken, art they've drawn, labs they've done, or various writing samples they've written. Whatever job field a person may seek a career out of, there is a way to build a digital portfolio for it. A portfolio is an underused tool that helps give a leg up against others seeking the same position. We aim to show just a few samples of what can go in a portfolio from our own so that others can see how diverse the final product can be, or even just from one portfolio to another.

### Katelin McDougald

As a Digital Journalism major, my portfolio leans heavily on articles. I will

pursue a career in journalism, and a resume doesn't even begin to show how I can write, let alone how I write articles. With a portfolio, I can link samples of my writing that are relevant to my future goals. If I attach my portfolio to my resume, they can see my writing style and decide if they like it and think it is compatible with the company or not. A portfolio is almost essential in careers like this, as otherwise, no one would know how you write before they decide if they should hire you or not.

One of the articles I've chosen for my portfolio is titled "Title Removed for Copyright Reasons." It helps me showcase multiple skills other than writing, even if at first it was only a school paper. A catchy title draws people in to read the article, which this has. Employers can see that I can write an eye-catching title. They can see that I understand what AP formatting is, which is essential to writing articles. This article also includes a theme and formatting: it's important to know that I can stick to a theme

especially in long-form articles like this, and the formatting is a bonus skill to give my article an extra edge

Though most of my writing comes from articles, I find it important to include a few creative pieces in my portfolio too, as they can display more of my writing voice and my interests than a standard article. One piece I'm including is called "Winter Turns to Spring." Creativity is an important skill employers look for, and this hits the mark. If employers can get a sense of who I am and how I write from these pieces, their knowledge of my skills and if they're compatible with the company will be more than if they had only my resume.

### **Madelynn News**

Upon my graduation from the university, I hope to find work as an editor in a publishing house. The inclusion of a writing portfolio with my resume provides the visual proof employers look for when it comes to hiring trustworthy and talented personnel. While my portfolio will be a mix of editing and creative pieces, it is in my editing talents where I will place the most stock. One piece I plan on including is my final paper written for the Advanced Composition course I took over the Winter 2021 term, an autobiographical journey through my writing experiences titled "Writing as Community, Therapy, and Fun." The writing of this piece did two things for me as a writer. One, it gave me the chance to look back and gain a true appreciation of what writing has done for me and my life, and two, its multiple components provide an example of how my editing process works.

The project itself consisted of three major parts: the rough draft, the revised version, and a reflection paper to tie everything together. Through the usage of various editing techniques I'd picked up on and developed during my time as a writing tutor, I was able to go through and add some flair to my rough

draft, switching around the ordering of information, adding emphasis where emphasis was due, and cutting out sections that didn't further my paper along in a productive way. Comparing the revised version and rough draft side-by-side, I could make a mental map of my editing decisions and compile them into a reflective piece on my choices. In the effort to make myself stand out to potential publishing house employers, I believe it is important to show one's work ethic and their overall approach to writing. This final paper, with the reflective component included, accomplishes this by making it clear what choices I made from one draft to the other and why.

### **El Lepera**

There are many people, myself included, that have no idea what they plan on doing immediately after graduation. As I will be graduating over the summer this is a troublesome notion. One thing that I can do to mitigate this issue is to create a portfolio that details pieces I have written and created throughout my academic career. Having a portfolio is just one of the many ways I can stand out among the throng of other freshly graduated undergraduates looking to obtain employment in my field. Within my portfolio, I am showcasing a few creative pieces I have composed over the years as well as a piece I have designed for a typography course I took here at Millersville University.

My first piece, titled, "Not Just Water Under This Bridge" was a piece I wrote for the Creative Writing course here at Millersville in fall 2020. The piece was originally composed in my junior year of high school, placing its initial creation around January 2016. The piece is a short story written about a woman in the 1800s who was murdered by her fiance's best friend and then staged to be a suicide instead of a murder. The piece was originally thought to be part of a larger work but upon its completion the

second time around I've decided to keep it in this short story format. This piece is optimal to showcase that the writing process never ceases. Even five years after its original creation I'm reworking the piece, updating the format, and changing aspects of the story that I no longer resonate with. A writer should never remain idle, should always be at work honing their skills and this piece is proof of that hard work at play.

### **Conclusion**

A portfolio is a seldom-used tool that separates potential employees from the rest of the crowd. They exemplify skills that would normally just be listed in a resume with no way to back them up. One can claim to have superb creative writing skills in a resume, but a portfolio is where you can actually see the person's creativity at play. These portfolios show exactly what one can do with their work and how they might succeed in their future endeavors.

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### **Recommended Citation**

McDougald, K. J., News, M. R., & Lepera, E. L. (2021). Digital portfolios: A wide variety. *Made in Millersville Journal*, 2021. Retrieved from <https://www.mimjournal.com/paper-41>