



Minnesota eLearning Summit

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Using WordPress Web Portfolios to Demonstrate Learning : From First Year to Capstone

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Using WordPress Web Portfolios to Demonstrate Learning

From First-Year Seminar to Senior Capstone

Caroline Hilk, Valerie Chepp, Nicole Nelson

Why are we here?

Who you are?

What is your experience with web portfolios?

What interests you about this session?



Agenda

- Introductions
- Case Studies
- Intersection of Pedagogy and Technology
- Perspectives of and from Students
- Lessons Learned, Challenges, & Considerations
- Open Forum Discussion



Introductions

Caroline Hilk - Director, Center for Teaching and Learning

Valerie Chepp - Assistant Professor, Sociology & Social Justice

Nicole Nelson - Academic Technology Consultant



Case Study One - First Year Seminar

- 16 first-year students
- “Ideas Imagined: Creativity for Innovation & Everyday Life”
- Weekly prompts: 1 creative + 1 reflective
- 30% of grade
- All portfolios hosted in WordPress



Purpose of Ideas Notebook Web Portfolios

Provide students with an opportunity to:

- practice being creative,
- reflect on their learning,
- learn to use technology for expression and professional communication,
- share their work with a broader audience.



Examples of Student Portfolios

Jake's Ideas Notebook



Home Creative Prompts Reflective Prompts

Creative Prompts

Week 14: Post a photo of your creativity tile created in class on Tuesday, 12/8.



Posts

Creative Prompts

- Week 14
- Week 13
- Week 12
- Week 11
- Week 10
- Week 9
- Week 8
- Week 7
- Week 6
- Week 5
- Week 4
- Week 3
- Week 2
- Week 1

Jake's Ideas Notebook



The Idea Notebook

About Me Create Reflective Prompts

About Me

My name is Jasmine Lee and this is my Idea Notebook.



Doesn't my hair look fabulous?

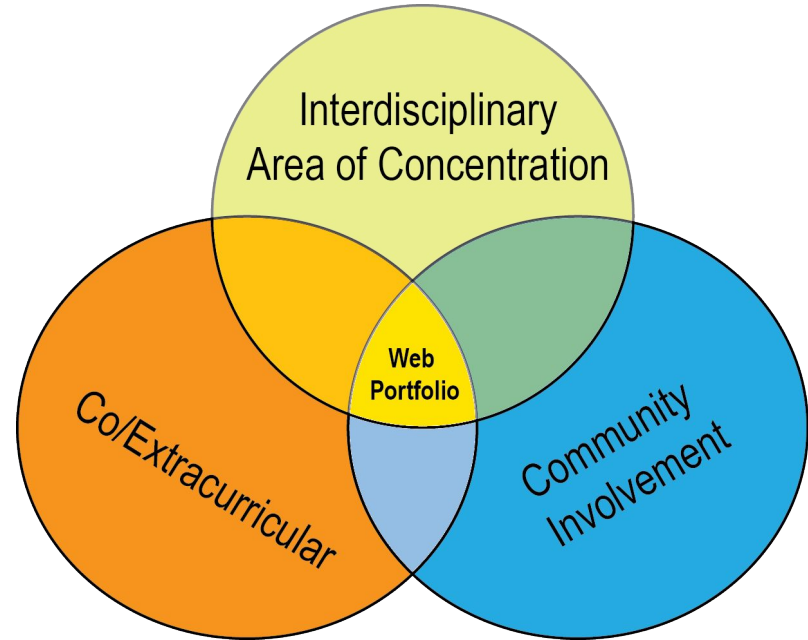
The Creator's Statement

This idea notebook was completed throughout the first semester of my college career. One thing I learned about myself is that when the option for me to do anything that could be seen as graphic design is presented to me, I will take it, no questions asked. I had never considered graphic design to be something I could do on a regular basis or even as a job, but now I am considering doing

Jasmine's Ideas Notebook

Case Study Two - Capstone Portfolio

- Justification/Rationale
 - Pedagogical, personal, professional
 - Narrating their experience and expertise to others and to themselves.



Examples of Student Capstone Portfolios

- Examples
 - [Olivia's Web Portfolio](#)
 - [Kayla's Web Portfolio](#)
 - [Annie's Web Portfolio](#)
 - [Joseph's Web Portfolio](#)
 - [Ehtalow's Web Portfolio](#)



Intersection of Pedagogy and Technology

- Determine pedagogical needs first
 - What were the goals/outcomes
- Based on the goals/outcomes, determine what technology best fit the needs of each project
- Articulate my role as Academic Technologist
 - Where can I assist in this process?
 - Researched options-best solution
 - Developed resources on an as-needed basis
 - Conducted in-class workshops around the technology
 - Enlisted a student worker with website experience to help
 - Documented the process of the pilot project

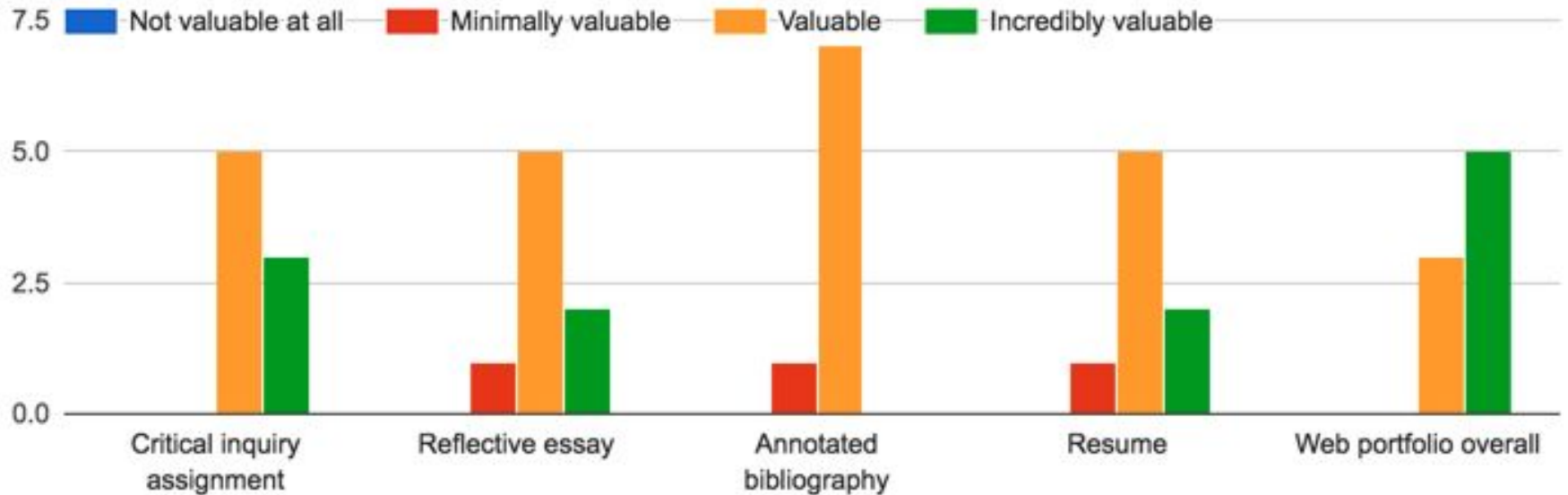


Hamline's Options and Comparisons

Subscription-Based Tool: Weebly	Hamline Enterprise Tool: Google Sites	Free Tool: Wordpress
<p>Pros we considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easy to Use and Learn• Drag and Drop features• Simplicity• Customization	<p>Pros we considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fully supported by Hamline ITS• Easy to create• Some templates available• Google platform	<p>Pros we considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Customization and make it their own• Free version• Students could acquire some tech skills• Could upgrade, change and evolve over time• Academic Technologist and student worker had knowledge in using Wordpress
<p>Cons we considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cost to students if using the paid version• Free version displays a Weebly advertisement on the webpages• Not easy to move site from the free version to a paid or different platform	<p>Cons we considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tied to Hamline email which students lose when they graduate• Limitations with design, file formats, customization	<p>Cons we considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not our enterprise tool at Hamline• Free version has limitations• Learning curve



How valuable did you find each of the following portfolio components:



Perspective of and from the students



“I think that it is essential for all students to have this type of experience before they leave Hamline!”

“I think that website building in general is an extremely valuable skill in today's job market. Additionally, I think that creating the web portfolio helped us to consolidate what we have learned in our major, and think about how we wanted to portray ourselves in the world after college.”



“It made me think about how I want to present myself in public, to people I work with, and employers. In this sense, I see the portfolio as the beginning of an ongoing process of having an online and/or public presence that will evolve and improve over time.”



Lessons Learned, Challenges, & Considerations

- Need for frequent deadlines and feedback
- Defining a process for students
- Technology learning curve
- Archiving: what do we do after they leave?
- Integration with other tools
- Institutional subscriptions (costs, access)
- Learning to communicate in the digital environment
- Feasible in flipped and online courses
- Finding answers to problems (taking ownership)
- Pride, investment, and value associated with project

Open Forum Discussion

- How might you consider using web portfolios?
- What challenges or considerations would you have on your campus to using web portfolios?



Helpful Resources

Wordpress

<https://en.support.wordpress.com/>

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