

Electronic Portfolios in College Admissions

Dr. Debra A. Cohen
Director, Advising Center
Dean College

Definition of E-portfolio

E-Portfolios are comprehensive digital collections of student work, usually containing writing samples, math exercises, experiments, and other accomplishments, all of which showcase students' knowledge and abilities. It is formative and summative in nature and is accessible through the web.

The next screen shows a sample login screen.

About Me

My Profile

Personalize



Olivia W
Sample High School

[HOME](#) [VIEW](#) [EDIT](#) [ASSIGNMENTS](#) [INFO](#)

[LOGOUT](#)

Olivia W



To see my portfolio, click on the View button above.

Show Messages

Definition of E-portfolio

An educational portfolio displays pieces of student work that not only demonstrates their best effort but also reflect learners' growth and development over a period of time (Barrett, 2001; Lanke, 1995; Jones, 1995).

Definition of E-portfolio

It is more than simply a file folder stored with students' papers and projects; it also offers teachers' evaluations of student work as well as students' reflections regarding their own learning.

The next screen shows how the portfolio can organize student work by standard.

Organized by Standards

School ▼

Contents

- 1. Effective Expression
- 2. Listen, Read, and Process ...
- 3. Research Skills / Informed ...
- 4. Positive Health Habits
- 5. Critical and Creative ...
- 6. Broad Perception of the ...
- 7. Use of Technology
- 8. Sense of Community
- 9. Initiative, Responsi- ...
- Reflection
- Tours



Olivia W
Sample High School



[HOME](#) [VIEW](#) [EDIT](#) [ASSIGNMENTS](#) [INFO](#)

Effective Expression

Click on any of the items below to see my work in that area.

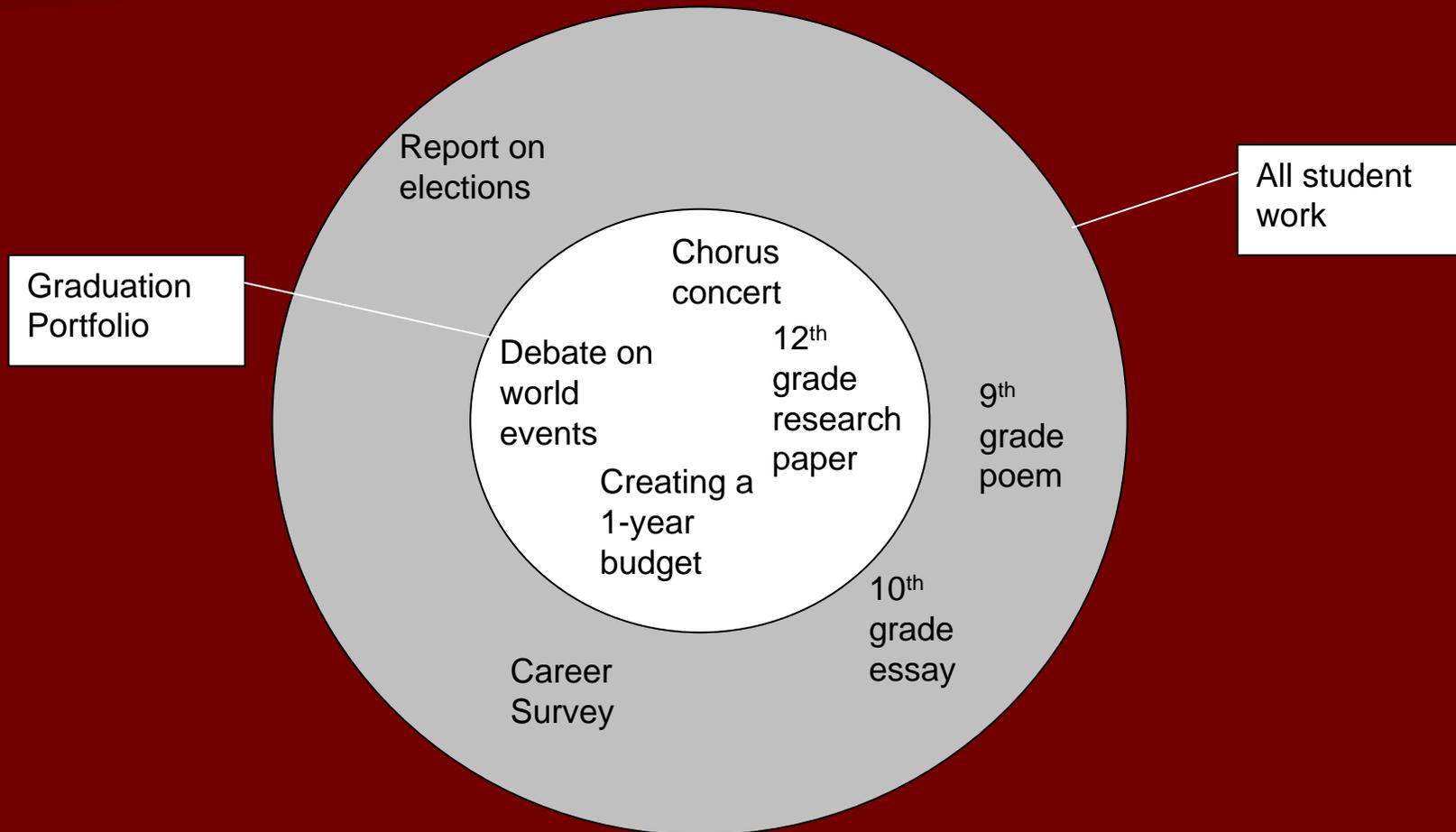
Learning Outcomes	Exhibitions			
	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
1.01 The student effectively communicates in standard English for a variety of purposes and audiences (orally and written format).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History - autobiographical powerpoint (completed) A Flare for the Dramatic (completed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explorers Essay (completed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> leaf collection (completed) Louis XIV (completed) Persuasive Essay - Romeo and Juliet (completed) Las Direcciones (completed) Web Page Design (completed) Mock Trial (in progress) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> abc (in progress) Discussion from yesterday's class (in progress)
1.02 The student is	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Sudsy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trip to Mt. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> abc (in

Collect, Select, Reflect

Students can use portfolios to collect, select, and reflect on their best work.

From a collection of high school work, a student can select their best entries.

Graduation Portfolio: A Subset



Improved Student Performance

School districts across the United States have cited improvement in student performance using these new assessment tools such as E-portfolios (Herman, 1992; Rhode Island Board of Education, 2005).

Educational Reform

People are no longer content to accept the school's word that students are well educated and prepared for college. Schools must now provide evidence that they are doing what they say they are doing and that the mission of the school is being fulfilled (Barrett, 2005).

Adoption of E-portfolios



- Technology has made its way into the classroom
- State-wide initiatives and charter schools have incorporated E-portfolios in high school graduation requirements

Alternative Graduation Requirements

There are many alternative high schools, charter schools and proprietary schools using alternative requirements for high school graduates.

Alternative Graduation Requirements

The use of E-portfolio's as part of the graduation requirements is one of the alternatives currently being explored on a national level (Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2005).

The Rhode Island State Board of Education maintains that schools have the authority to require an E-portfolio or similar pathway as a mandatory local graduation requirement.

Questioning the SAT

- Based on IQ tests: not a good indicator for college success
- Not holistic in nature
- Reliability

Keeping up with the Students

...higher education institutions need to embrace new technologies or risk losing their best and brightest students who will choose schools which keep current with the changing times (N. Howe & W. Strauss, 2003).

College Admissions

- Should E-portfolios be utilized, and be considered acceptable criteria for acceptance decisions in higher educational institutions?
- Might a combination of traditional measures such as SAT scores, grade point averages, and class rank be used in conjunction with E-portfolios?

College Admissions

- Can an E-portfolio be equated to a standardized test?
- Is it the place of the admission office to be evaluating E-portfolio's or should it be within the academic department?
- What should the criteria be to evaluate E-portfolios?

Comments

- Secondary education is now in a state of reform
- Higher education is slow to change
- Standardized tests are still the main form for evaluation

Research Questions

- What knowledge and experience do New England admissions professionals have with E-portfolios?
- What training (formal and informal) do New England admission's professionals have with E-portfolios?

Research Questions

- What is the status of high school E-portfolios usage in the acceptance process in higher education in New England?
- Are there differences in importance at the respondents' own institution and their opinion of E-portfolio usage on higher education as a whole?

Sample and Data Collection

- NETA members from two and four year public and private college admissions offices
- Professionals at the entry level such as Admission officers as well as Directors
- The Data was collected during a luncheon at NETA's annual conference in April 2006

Survey Response

- 82 higher education professionals attended the lunch
- 47 returned the survey
- Response rate: 57%

Findings

- 86% of the respondents have little to no knowledge/experience with E-portfolios
- 92% percent receive little or no training
- 85% of the respondents had absolutely no experience evaluating E-portfolios

Findings

- 97% of the respondents do not accept E-portfolio's at their institution
- 56% Respondents also stated that admissions offices should be engaged in discussions about the use of E-portfolios

Recommendations

- Need for further research at the national level
- Need to address the disconnect between elementary/secondary education and higher education