**From Both Sides of the Desk:
Student and Faculty
Perspectives on Portfolios**

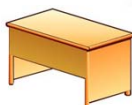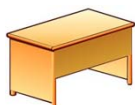Dr. Bethany Johnson
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STP: Best Practices Conference
Atlanta, GA   10/12/13

Objectives

A. **Why use a portfolio?**
B. **What is a portfolio?**
C. **The portfolio advantage**
D. **Considerations**

Objectives
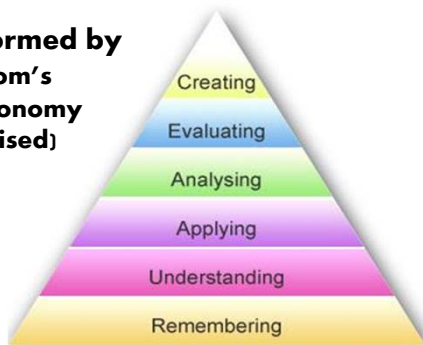
A. **Why use a portfolio?**
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Why use a portfolio?

New toy

Vehicle of expression

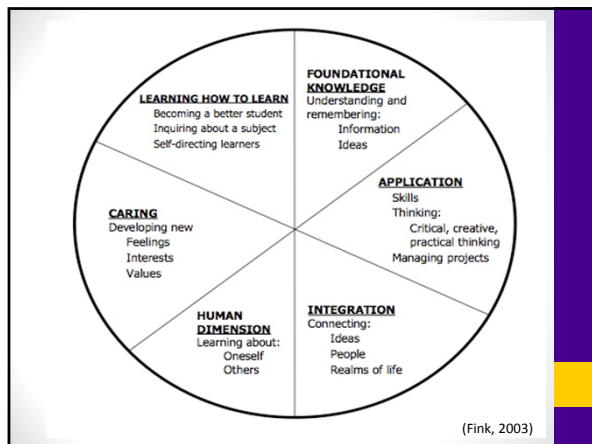## Why use a portfolio?

**Informed by
  Bloom's
  Taxonomy
  (revised)**

Creating
Evaluating
Analysing
Applying
Understanding
Remembering

Why use a portfolio?

Informed by
  **Fink's Taxonomy
  Significant Learning**

Slide 1:

LEARNING HOW TO LEARN
Becoming a better student
Inquiring about a subject
Self-directing learners

FOUNDATIONAL KNOWLEDGE
Understanding and remembering:
Information
Ideas

APPLICATION
Skills
Thinking:
Critical, creative, practical thinking
Managing projects

CARING
Developing new
Feelings
Interests
Values

HUMAN DIMENSION
Learning about:
Oneself
Others

INTEGRATION
Connecting:
Ideas
People
Realms of life

(Fink, 2003)

Slide 2:

Why use a portfolio?

- **Informed by Nevid's Effective Learning (2008)**
  - **Engaging Interest**
  - **Encoding Important Information**
  - **Elaborating Meaning**
  - **Evaluating progress**

Slide 3:

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Slide 4:

What is a portfolio?

- **Collection of student work**
  - **Purposeful**
  - **Common theme**

  - **Collection**
  - **Selection**
  - **Reflection**

Slide 5:

What is a portfolio?

- **Used in many fields**
- **Types**
  - **Showcase**
  - **Assessment** — Product
  - **Evaluation**
  - **Growth** — Process

2 Mueller (2012)

Slide 6:

What is a portfolio?

- **Reflective writing**
  - **Introspection**
  - **Attitudes, beliefs, values**
- **Scales and tests**
- **Outside experiences**
- **Interviews**
- **Information finding quests**
- **Official forms and documents**
- **Media studies**
- **Art**
- **Thought experiments**
- **Cross-cultural awareness**
- **Skill practice/development**

Human Sexuality

- 31% Exams; 50% Portfolio; 10% Participation/Discussion
- "10 years from now…"
- Sex in the movies
- How did you learn about sex
- Bucket (of Sex) List
- Multidimensional comfort with sexuality
- Legality and availability of abortion
- Someone close to you is gay
- Inform your partner you have an STD
- Shop for a prophylactic and sex toy
- Sexual Anxiety
- Breaking up and technology
- Get tested for STI/HIV
- Attitudes towards women's genitals
- Politicians and sex scandals
- Field trip: Visit a strip club
- Sexual Philosophy

Death & Dying

- 60% Exams; 40% portfolio
- "My Body Now and Then"
- Death in popular culture
- Personal Death customs
- The Bucket List
- Death Awareness
- Death Concern Scale
- Right to Die
- Someone you love is dying
- You are dying
- Write your Obituary & Eulogy
- Death Anxiety
- Grief and FaceBook
- Advance Medical Directives
- Heath Care Proxy
- Giving it all away
- Suicide Prevention Training
- Field Trip: Visit a cemetery
- Afterlife questionnaire
- Final Reflections

What is a portfolio?

- **Growth opportunity**
  - **Metacognition**
  - **Professor's perspective**
  - **Students' perspective**

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The portfolio advantage

- **Supplement classroom learning**
  - **Apply and integrate content**
  - **Experiences outside classroom**

The portfolio advantage

- **Individualized**
  - **Substitution options**
    - Alternative Assignments
  - **Self-paced completion**
    - **Turn in 3x/semester**
    - **Flexibility of completion**
    - **Control when and where**

The portfolio advantage

- **Individualized**
  - **Anonymous/blind-grading**
    - **No judgment**
    - **"Safe" expression**
  - **Leave comfort zone**
    - **Confront controversy**
    - **Challenge beliefs**
    - **Question assumptions**

The portfolio advantage

- Increased self-awareness
  - Emotions
  - Beliefs, values
  - Complacence
  - Dissonance
  - Identity formation
  - Exposure to novelty
  - Future goals

The portfolio advantage

- Initiates Dialogue
  - Family
  - Friends
  - Peers

- Deep Processing
  - Reflection cements learning

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Things to consider…

- Is this better than "traditional" measures
  - End of semester surveys

Things to consider…

- Death survey
  - Favorite/least favorite
  - Emotional struggles
  - Submission preference
    - End; intermittent; corresponding
  - Privacy
  - Pacing

Things to consider…

- Death survey
  - Good assessment of knowledge?
    - YES: 30/30
    - "it's a good way of finding stuff out about yourself you wouldn't normally think of"
    - "You are able to see how you've progressed, and you know your understanding of things."
    - "It was more of my emotional understanding versus intellectual."
    - "it allows me to think about what I have learned and how it changed my perspective."
    - "they [the assignments] got me thinking and talking openly with family and friends."

Things to consider...

- Is this better than "traditional" measures
  - End of semester surveys
  - PSYC 101 experiment

Things to consider...

- Professional Obligations
  - Boundaries
  - Student Disclosure
  - HIPPA, FERPA, Etc.

Things to consider...

- How do we grade this?
  - learning objectives vs. subjective journey of self-discovery
  - High vs. low "stakes"
  - Completeness vs. compliance
  - Perceived effort/evidence of deep thought

Things to consider...

- How much time will this take?
  - Students: Completion time
  - Professors: Grading time

Take Away...

- Portfolios are a collection of student work
- Opportunity for significant learning
  - Especially in sensitive courses

References & Resources

- See our shared Dropbox folder for course materials, references, and additional resources
  - https://www.dropbox.com/sh/rrw09mjdlfqgju9/jY4gVkCICo

- AVAILABLE MONDAY