

# HCEC SELF-ASSESSMENT PORTFOLIO

## FRESHMEN PORTFOLIO



“Whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life, or whether that station will be held by anybody else, these pages must show.” –**David Copperfield** by Charles Dickens

The entries in this selection of writings and illustrations are about a topic you know well: YOU. This is also a lesson in following directions and preparing a good portfolio.

**Always save your work in a safe place such as your flash drive and your M: drive.**

The information you provide in this portfolio is your choice. Keep in mind you will be asked to share some of your entries at the Student Showcase during the spring semester. It is important to make your entries suitable for your audience which will include your classmates, teachers, parents and visitors from HCPS, BRCC, and the community. You are expected to choose appropriate language and content for your entries.

Each year you will be preparing a similar portfolio:

- Freshmen is self-assessment
- Sophomore is career development and future planning

During your junior year you will select a topic for your Graduation Project and write a research paper which will be due in May. You will then prepare your portfolio, product and presentation to complete your Graduation Project.

This portfolio is designed to assist you in developing very important skills needed at HCEC and BRCC:

- research and writing skills
- self-reflection and personal assessment skills
- critical thinking and problem solving skills

By exploring your personal thoughts and beliefs you will gain a greater understanding of what makes you a unique individual. During your senior year, you will choose and research a Graduation Project topic. This portfolio will assist you in this process by helping you discover topics and ideas that inspire and intrigue you. Two components for the Graduation Project are developing a portfolio for your internship and writing a research paper. This portfolio is the beginning for learning the skills to help you develop the best portfolio and research paper you can produce. The Showcase will help you be better prepared when you do your presentation for your Graduation Project which is assessed by adult judges.

Your work will be reviewed or checked-in on a regularly basis. At the end of the second semester your portfolio should be completed. It will be your choice as to whether you would like to store your portfolio at school or take personal responsibility for it so that it is available for future years. You will be asked to

pull entries for each annual Student Showcase (**Tuesday, March 27**) and you will be asked to reference your portfolio when you begin investigating possible Graduation Project topics.

The following chart gives the deadlines for portfolio entries:

Check-In	Date	Requirements
First Check-in	January 19	Entries 1 and 2 completed
Second Check-in	February 9	Entries 3-4 completed
Third Check-in	February 22	Entries 5-6 completed
Fourth Check-in	March 2	2 additional entries completed
Fifth Check-in	March 16	Last 2 entries completed
Sixth Check-in	March 23	Student Showcase check-in
Seventh Check-in	March 27	Student Showcase
Eighth Check-in	April 13	Final Portfolio completed

Every portfolio entry should be:

- a thoughtful response to the topics you select
- typed and edited as needed to reflect your personality
  - artistic illustrations, videos, or other creative representations are acceptable
- in booklet format with entries in order as outlined in the following pages
- titled on the first line of the entry
- numbered by entry in the upper right corner of the page

There are **21** you are required to complete **10**.

The first **6** entries are required, then you may choose **4** entries from the next 14 (7-20).

**EVERY STUDENT** is required to complete # **21**.

**COMPLETENESS** counts, but your writing should also demonstrate appropriate word usage, sentence structure, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. Illustrations should be prepared on 8.5 x 11 paper.

**GRADING:** This project will be part of your grade for Study Group each quarter.

## FRESHMAN SELF-ASSESSMENT PORTFOLIO ENTRIES

1. **REQUIRED: A Letter of Introduction:** Quite simply, we don't know you, and teaching you will be much easier for all of us once we are no longer such strangers. Write a letter introducing yourself. Tell us what we should know about you. Consider your experiences in school, what your family is like, what you enjoy doing, what you don't enjoy doing, who your friends are, where you want to be in ten years, etc.
2. **REQUIRED: The Examined Life:** Use the COLUMN function in word processing to make two columns on your page. In one column, list the best things about yourself. In the other column, list your greatest faults. Your good list must be at least as long as your bad list! Like everyone else in the world, you have a combination of traits or characteristics that can be considered as strengths or weaknesses, describe how one of your strengths might be a weakness in certain circumstances or a weakness that could be a strength.
3. **REQUIRED: Remembrance of Things Present:** In twenty years you will have forgotten most of the things that fill your life now. What are the things about who you are now, what you enjoy and value, what you do with your time, and so on that you want to remember twenty years from now? Imagine what will be important to your memory of yourself later on. Write these things down.
4. **REQUIRED: Advice to the Young:** Right now, based upon your experience, what practical information about life, living, and growing up could you give to a younger person? You may write this to a generalized "young person," to the child you hope to have some day, to a specific young person you know, or even to your younger self.
5. **REQUIRED: Map of Life:** Draw or create on a computer a stylized map, beginning with your birth and ending with the present. Along the way, include a label and a picture of what you remember as important events, places, and people in your life. Keep all labels and pictures in order and have at least one for each year. Your entry must fit on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper.
6. **REQUIRED: Personal Symbol:** Ms. Willingham will go over the instructions of this entry during Study Group.

### Choose 4 of the next 14 entries (7-20) to complete for your portfolio

7. **Likes / Dislikes List:** Use the COLUMN function in word processing to make a page with two columns. Title one column LIKES; the other DISLIKES and list from TEN to FIFTEEN specific items in each column. Avoid naming specific classmates and teachers by generalizing. A generalizing example of a LIKE could be: This crazy teacher who's making me write an autobiography, without using my name!
8. **Room Sweet Room:** We are very territorial! The rooms we live in and how we decorate them are as revealing as our clothing. Examine your own room and all the things that make it uniquely yours. Describe the room, not just by listing the things in it, but by conveying the feelings you have for the room and the items in it. Include in your response, descriptions that appeal to at least three out of the five senses. You can include a floor plan of your room. If you do not want to describe your room, describe your dream room and include a floor plan with furnishings.

9. **Unfinished Sentences:** Select at least FIVE (5) sentence prompts. Complete each one of the prompts by writing a short paragraph that relates to the prompt. Express yourself succinctly and well.
- a) Sometimes I worry about...
  - b) I feel angry when...
  - c) I feel angry when...
  - d) I'm happiest when...
  - e) I feel confident when...
  - f) I feel frustrated when...
  - g) I feel sad when...
  - h) I am comfortable when...
  - i) I feel nervous when...
  - j) I feel sentimental when...
10. **Symbolic Object:** A symbol is an object that represents something else. Write about an object that has special symbolic meaning for you. It might be a gift from someone you love, an award of which you are most proud, a souvenir from a place you miss, a childhood toy you still treasure, a family photograph, etc. Describe the object and give specific details. Include an illustration and explain the symbolic connection to you.
11. **My Hero:** Describe your hero. Refer to the quote at the beginning of this document and include it in your description. You can do a drawing, 3-D representation, or a written (full page) composition to justify why this person is your hero.
12. **Flashback:** If you could relive one day or experience in your life, what would it be? You might choose to relive this time because it was so wonderful you want to experience it again, or you might choose a day you want to change in some way. Identify the day or experience, tell why it was so important to you, and explain what reliving it would accomplish.
13. **My Own List of Lists:** The Book of Lists lists facts from history, literature, science, entertainment, etc. Select FOUR (4) Topics from the list below. Use the COLUMN function in word processing to make your list of lists, Write the TOPIC for each list and UNDERLINE then list from SIX to TEN specific items under each topic.
- a) People who have influenced me...
  - b) Places that make me happy...
  - c) Places I would like to go...
  - d) Things in people which I like...
  - e) Things in people which I dislike...
  - f) Things that I can teach others...
  - g) Things I would like to know how to do...
  - h) Things that have moved me...
  - i) Ideas that intrigue me...
  - j) My personal favorites...
14. **A Day in My Life:** Write about a part of your life as if it were a passage from a novel. Refer to yourself by using third person point of view — not “I woke up” but rather “she woke up.” Exaggerate, embellish, and elaborate as you wish — there’s truth to be found in fiction, too.
15. **Lessons I Learned After It Was Too Late:** It seems that we always learn the most important lessons the hard way, usually when it’s too late, when we’ve already made our big mistakes. Look back over your life and write approximately a PAGE on the lessons you learned after it was too late.
16. **Remembering the Child:** Imagine yourself a sweet little toddler. How did others see you when you were very little? Interview someone who knew you as a small child -- one of your parents or grandparents, an older sibling, or an aunt or uncle, for example. Write about their favorite memory of you. Some possibilities are when you learned how to walk or ride a bike, a memorable sports game or musical event, a visit to grandparents, a special birthday, a fulfilling and relaxing evening at home, or anything else that stands out as a highlight of your childhood.
17. **Free Speech Speech:** Lucky, lucky you! You have three minutes of air time on national television, all networks. What would you say to your fellow Americans? Write your speech, timing it carefully. Remember, the eyes of America will be on you, so be careful about errors, and try to say something worth listening to. This could be recorded and used as part of your Showcase

presentation.

18. **Always Say Never:** Select TWO (2) for your lists, and write a short essay explaining your lists. Use the COLUMN function in word processing to make your lists of:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a) books you never want to read again            | d) places you never want to go again        |
| b) classes you never want to take again          | e) any other "nevers" you'd like to explore |
| c) things you hope you'll never have to do again |   |

19. **Family Expectations:** Make a list of things you expect of your parents -- things that are your rights, not gifts or material objects, but things like love, praise, privacy when needed, etc. Make a parallel list of things you think your parents have a right to expect from you.

20. **My Motto:** Create a catchy phrase that becomes your motto. Design and produce your personalized bumper sticker/license tag (on 8.5 x 11 paper) or record a jingle that uses your motto. Include a written copy of your jingle in your portfolio and use the recording in your Showcase presentation.

#### **ALL STUDENTS COMPLETE THIS ENTRY. DO THESE FOUR THINGS LAST**

1. **A COVER:** Your cover should include your selected title, your name, and an illustration appropriate to your portfolio. For illustrations, consider a word pattern, graphic design, collage, original drawings, photographs, magazine pictures, quotations, etc.
2. **A TITLE PAGE:** Select a word or phrase particularly meaningful for you to use as your title. Browse through a thesaurus, listen to music you love, think of special people and places and interests, and then submit several possible titles. "A Book about Me", "Tamara's Autobiography", and "My Autobiography" are poor titles because they are vague and impersonal. Be CREATIVE! Illustrate the title page and include your name.
3. **A TABLE OF CONTENTS:** List the entry number and title of all entries in your portfolio on the Table of Contents page.
4. **Epilogue (Last page):** Imagine that a complete stranger picked up your portfolio. The stranger reads it from the first page to the last. How would this stranger perceive the author? What kind of person appears to have filled these pages? Write a CHARACTER SKETCH of the person captured in these pages from the stranger's point of view that covers what's important to you.. Refer to SPECIFIC ENTRIES to support the stranger's impression of the author, YOU!