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|  | Re: ASSIGNMENT:discuss eportfolios (10%) Due Nov 9  by [Mary Atkinson](https://moodle.vcc.ca/user/view.php?id=8589&course=1180) - Saturday, 7 November 2009, 01:03 PM |
|  | I think there is a place for eportfolios in my teaching. I used to do a paper portfolio with my pre-algebra classes. They looked back over their semester's work and picked out examples that fit criteria I had set. They then reflected on the items they had selected by indicating why they had selected that particular item and what they had learned from doing it.Although the portfolio was useful, I realized that it needed improvement. But there was never time to learn more, so I am pleased that we are considering eportfolios in this course.  I realized at the time that I did not prepare students well enough or give them enough guidance through the process. Most students focused on the portfolio primarily at the end of the semester; some had been well-organized and could assess their work, others had more difficulty drawing on the semester's work to prepare their portfolio. I needed to provide them with a rubric for the summative assessment (10%) and I needed to help them be reflective. Some students seemed to be naturally reflective; others were not. Generally, students either did well and found it a worthwhile exercise or did not submit their portfolio at all.A colleague who had taken a course about portfolios criticized my assignment as just being a compendium of work - she said it wasn't really a portfolio. Talking to the PLAR (Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition) person at UFV this spring, I became aware that what my portfolio assignment lacked was the developmental aspect; the portfolio needed to be more explicitly designed to show specific growth over the semester.  The literature is very positive about the benefits of eportfolios for learning. Eportfolio tools allow input and storage of information from the learner and others, management and organization of the information, and setting permissions for viewing and giving feedback. (Striven, 2009) Students can store their artifacts as graphics, sound, digital video, hyperlinks, and text. The eportfolio encourages self-evaluation and reflection as faculty can give feedback and the student can respond by altering the artifact. (Gathercoal, 2002) Students become more aware of the learning outcomes for the course and are able to assess against the outcomes. (Pelliccione, 2008)  The main difficulty seems to be with skills and confidence in using the technology, for both students and teachers. When given a choice, though, students preferred electronic portfolios to paper portfolios. Also users' ability to write regular and meaningful reflection varies whether the medium is paper or electronic. (Striven, 2009) It should not be assumed that the reflective cycle will occur without guidance and design; the eportfolio should be introduced through carefully scaffolded tasks (JISC, 2008)  Reading about eportfolios has clarified my thoughts about my assignment. I would shift to an eportfolio and ask students to document growth in confidence using mathematics, conceptual understandings, development of algebraic skills, and problem solving ability.  What I'm not sure about is tools. The literature I read mentions a variety, including a WebCT/Blackboard portfolio, http://avenetfolio.com, http://www.epsilen.com and just using Power Point. Does anyone know about good possibilities for an individual classroom context focused on learning and assessment?  Gathercoal, P. et al. (2002). On implementing web-based electronic portfolios. *Educause Quarterly*. 25, no.2  [http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/eqm0224.pdf](http://net.educause.edu/library/pdf/eqm0224.pdf)  Joint Information Systems Committee (2008). Effective practice with eportfolios. <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/effectivepracticeportfolios>  Pelliccione, L. & Dixon, K. (2008). ePortfolios: Beyond assessment to empowerment in the learning landscape. In *Hello! Where are you in the landscape of educational technology?* Proceedings ascilite Melbourne 2008.  [http:www.ascilite.org.au/conferences/melbourne08/procs/pelliccione.pdf](http://www.ascilite.org.au/conferences/melbourne08/procs/pelliccione.pdf)  Striven, J. et al. (2009). The role of eportfolios in formative and summative assessment: Report of the JISC-funded Study.  <http://www.jisc.org.uk/media/documents/programmes/elearning/eportfinalreport.doc> [Show parent](https://moodle.vcc.ca/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=20091#p68641) | [Reply](https://moodle.vcc.ca/mod/forum/post.php?reply=80884) |

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|  | Re: ASSIGNMENT:discuss eportfolios (10%) Due Nov 9  by [Wayne Rubner](https://moodle.vcc.ca/user/view.php?id=7582&course=1180) - Saturday, 7 November 2009, 02:46 PM |
|  | Hi Mary,  I read your post with great interest. When I worked on this assignment, the practical part of my thinking went straight towards the "how to do this effectively" thought process. You have described it very well. You pointed out the limitations of doing the portfolio at the end of class rather than throughout and acknowledged that some students reflect naturally, while in others it is not as easy. You point out that we should not assume the reflective cycle will occur without guidance and design. I could not agree more. I, like other students, would much prefer an electronic portfolio over a paper-based portfolio. I'm glad that you pointed out the technology challenges that come along with an electronic portfolio. This assignment has made a good case for why we should embrace ePortfolios, in all of the forms it comes it. The next step is to embrace the "how". Well done!  [Show parent](https://moodle.vcc.ca/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=20091#p80884) | [Reply](https://moodle.vcc.ca/mod/forum/post.php?reply=80903) |
|  | Re: ASSIGNMENT:discuss eportfolios (10%) Due Nov 9  by [Susan Birtwell](https://moodle.vcc.ca/user/view.php?id=235&course=1180) - Saturday, 7 November 2009, 07:13 PM |
|  | You make an important point about the purpose of the efolio Jean, "needed to be more explicitly designed to show specific growth". In order to be effective as a learning tool, the learner documents changes in their knowledge over time with the artefacts. As to software, UBC are using Wordpress for efolios; Mahara is another product that links to Moodle quite well. Here is a ref. to using Wordpress by Helen Barrett the efolio guru <http://hbarrett.wordpress.com/how-to/> This is a blog about the efolio project at UBC <http://edtechpd.blogspot.com/search/label/ePortfolios> Here's a link to Mahara <http://mahara.org/> I think the process is more important than the technology so anything the learner is familiar with is OK (I have seen web sites and Word documents used for efolios).  [Show parent](https://moodle.vcc.ca/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=20091#p80884) | [Reply](https://moodle.vcc.ca/mod/forum/post.php?reply=80943) |

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|  | Re: ASSIGNMENT:discuss eportfolios (10%) Due Nov 9  by [Martin Eisbrenner](https://moodle.vcc.ca/user/view.php?id=8653&course=1180) - Sunday, 8 November 2009, 05:14 PM |
|  | Mary:  Two comments in your discussion piqued my interest. You said that you were criticized in the past as your students portfolios did not show the development throughout the course and further that the students lacked the skills needed to implement the ePortfolio. Those are good points to remember in the implementation of ePortfolios. I would suggest that you consider Adobe Acrobat (not just the reader) to move forward with this. With version 9 Adobe has built in a ePortfolio function that makes is easier to compile electronic resources into a single document that can be opened with Acrobat Reader, which is now an accepted format. Adobe has many online resources that can help with the teaching including print document and free training videos. As you say, students like the electronic form of the portfolio and you need some training for yourself and them.  Check out the link below:  [Video Basics of Adobe Portfolio](http://tv.adobe.com/watch/acrobat-tips-and-tricks/overview-of-pdf-portfolios/)  Martin  [Show parent](https://moodle.vcc.ca/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=20091#p80884) | [Reply](https://moodle.vcc.ca/mod/forum/post.php?reply=81130) |
|  | Re: ASSIGNMENT:discuss eportfolios (10%) Due Nov 9  by [Debbra Hes](https://moodle.vcc.ca/user/view.php?id=8623&course=1180) - Sunday, 8 November 2009, 10:45 PM |
|  | Mary  I found your thoughts, and comments on previous experiences with portfolios very similar to mine (only better put I might add), and I agree with your conclusions of the benefits of eportfolios versus paper based. A highlight for me is your comment on students becoming more aware of the learning outcomes for the course, and assessing those outcomes. You point out the difficulties with skills and confidence with technology and I agree it is a stumbling block. There are never enough hours in the day for us to learn in order to guide students through a new process. Here we go, one more life long learning goal. Have fun, I too will trade my paper in and go high tech.  Debbra  [Show parent](https://moodle.vcc.ca/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=20091#p80884) | [Reply](https://moodle.vcc.ca/mod/forum/post.php?reply=81250) |

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|  | Re: ASSIGNMENT:discuss eportfolios (10%) Due Nov 9  by [Anne-Marie Merkel](https://moodle.vcc.ca/user/view.php?id=8516&course=1180) - Monday, 9 November 2009, 12:05 AM |
|  | Hi Mary  Thanks for your honest and reflective post.  I to tried to implement into my job search class, with limited success.  I think students need to learn how to be relective of their own abilities.  In my online classes I would really like to find a way to incorporate this without increasing thier workload.  I will have to reflect on this and see if I can do some of this in Administrative Procedures class as this is the last course in the first certificate.  Will have to ponder this.  [Show parent](https://moodle.vcc.ca/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=20091#p80884) | [Reply](https://moodle.vcc.ca/mod/forum/post.php?reply=81267) |

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|  | Re: ASSIGNMENT:discuss eportfolios (10%) Due Nov 9  by [Mary Atkinson](https://moodle.vcc.ca/user/view.php?id=8589&course=1180) - Monday, 9 November 2009, 01:51 PM |
|  | Thank you everyone for the feedback. As I would most likely be working in a CMS, Moodle or Blackboard, I will check out Mahara and the Blackboard portfolio. I will also find out more about using Adobe Acrobat (version 9) as Martin suggested. The UBC software comparison chart I found also mentions Adobe. I don't think the students I teach (adult basic education) would have much trouble with the technology. (Given paying attention to that aspect when introducing the task.) They are either already skilled or they have ready access to support within the department. I never even considered eportfolios at the time; it wasn't on my radar. I suspect an eportfolio would make the assignment easier. Not only would it help them to organize their stuff, it would keep them thinking about the process throughout the semester.  Jean |