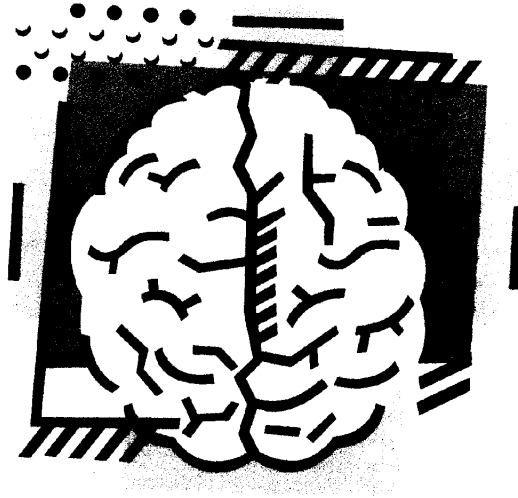


My Portfolio



6/8/06
Bristol

Myself as a Student

I have become a more serious student this year compared to last year. I think I have improved the most on analyzing quotes and writing about books. I have also improved on noticing literary devices in poems and stories. I think I did less homework this year than last year and I don't know why. I still didn't study this year and I think that made a big difference in my grade.

I did really well in group work this year as I did last year. I really liked when we had to reenact plays that we read in class. My favorite was Othello. I slack off a lot when I have to read at home because I don't like reading so I won't read. I enjoy plays more than I do novels.

I don't like when history class and English class are split up because I think the work stacks up. Humanities last year had way less work compared to 2 separate classes this year. English alone this year had a ton of work and most of the time I was overwhelmed. There was a lot of writing and that's what I do worst. I can't write for a long period if you haven't noticed I'm trying to stretch this out.

I think I improved a lot in reading this year not from reading the novels, but by reading the plays. I am able now to point out literary devices and understand a more difficult text than last and going under level 1 of a story. Its fun when u can make

connections to the bible and to the world. Text to self connections are always interesting as you might be able to notice something about yourself you haven't noticed before.

Next year I would like to try harder and try to do all my homework. I will try to get into writing because my grades in essays and reports are unacceptable. I also want to participate more in class because I always have questions, but hardly ever raise my hand. I guess I'm a little shy or maybe just lazy.

My strength in class I think is reading and interpreting plays. I enjoy Shakespeare's plays the most. I also enjoy reenacting them. Another strength of mine in class I think is in class reading. When I read aloud or quietly in class I'm able to understand better because at home I'm always distracted. I'll get higher grades and a better understanding of English if I read in class.

One of my weaknesses in this year was the homework. I never had this much homework and to me it was overwhelming. And all the reading was driving me nuts. I had to try to do my two worst things in the world.... Reading and writing. Another weakness was having the hardest class of the day in the morning, the first period of the day. Though it gets the tough part out its still hard to concentrate in the morning and to do your best.

Overall I think I could've done a lot better this year but I just got lazy toward the end of the year and just stopped doing homework which hurt me in every class. That's one thing really, really need to work on next year and that's doing my homework it makes me fall behind in classes and not understand the next day what the class is about. And I need to stop saving things for the last minute. Like this portfolio is last minute and now I wont have it done by the due date. Makes me so mad.

Eng

6/13/06
Bristol

Research: Reflection

The assignment for this piece was to pick a problem or topic in global history and research it to make a solution for it.

I picked this piece because it was the last project of the year and probably shows all of my improvements as a writer. I liked how in this essay I wrote about a topic I really didn't know about and now since I researched this article I now know all about it. This topic is very interesting to me because I like politics and I like past wars. I like to know about my history because history repeats itself.

This piece demonstrates my ability to cover all aspects of a single topic. It also shows the advancements I have made throughout the year as an English student.

I am proud that I know so much of a topic that I can explain without stopping. The power point presentation that was related to this is a good example. I like the history of wars and politics.

4/30/06
Bristol

Vietnam War

Vietnam has had many problems in the past. Vietnam is currently a communist country. Vietnam has been through a lot of problems in the past trying to get one unified country. Because of differences inside the country, Vietnam was in a time of turmoil. With the help of Encarta encyclopedia, I will explain what Vietnam has been through up to this point.

Vietnam is a communist country. Vietnam became a communist country after the first and second Indochina Wars. In the late 19th century the French invaded Vietnam and tried to colonize them. France split up Vietnam and made 3 separate colonies, which was later called French Indochina. After WWII the Vietnamese people fought back against France to try and regain their territory. The Vietnamese people succeeded in regain control from France, but Vietnam was split into 2 different regions North Vietnam which was led by communist leaders and South Vietnam, which was led by anti-communist leaders.

North Vietnam tried to unify the divided country, but under communist rule. South Vietnam was supported by the U.S. and did not want a communist led country. South Vietnam fought back against North Vietnam, with the help of the U.S. The U.S. thought if North Vietnam did unify the 2 countries and made 1 communist country then Vietnam would try to take over neighboring countries making the whole Indochina peninsula communist. This was called the Domino Theory.

As North Vietnam tried to take control of the South, the U.S. sent troops to help out South Vietnam. North Vietnam was too strong. North Vietnam used a military strategy called the Tet offensive, this meant that they were going to do an all out attack on U.S. troops cause massive deaths on both the U.S. side and themselves. North Vietnam believed that this will batter the morale of the U.S. troops and forced them to withdraw. The strategy worked. North Vietnamese soldiers surrounded the U.S. troops and did an all out attack on them. The U.S. was forced to withdraw. Shortly after the U.S. soldiers withdrew the North took over the South and made 1 country now called Vietnam.

The Vietnamese did not “hate” the Americans for entering a war that had nothing to do with them. They thought the U.S. was not a big of an enemy as the Chinese or the French. "I remember asking a taxi driver when I found out he had fought for the North, 'Why don't you hate me?' He was quiet, and pulled over after a few moments. He said 'We fought the Chinese for a thousand years. We fought the French for a hundred years. You were here for ten years. You were a blip on the history of a proud nation.' And then he drove on." (Lamb, David. *The Stories: David*) A reporter asks a taxi driver in Vietnam that fought during the Vietnam War. This quote shows that the Vietnamese people didn't weren't scared of the U.S. like they would be scared of an enemy.

During the Vietnam war North Vietnam had a military leader that was so great that he never lost a battle. His name was General Vo Nguyen Giap. Giap led the attack on the Americans that was the turning point of the war. “The General launched a major surprise offensive against American and South Vietnamese forces on the eve of the lunar New Year celebrations.” (Colvin, John History of Vietnam) Giap's plan led to many deaths on both the American, along with South Vietnam and the North Vietnam side.

Giap took a big gamble but turned out for the better because during that attack he also invaded the Saigon.

The U.S. didn't really have a reason in getting involved with the Vietnam problems. The U.S. first got involved by helping the French regain control of Vietnam, but the communist led country defeated France and France was forced to back down. The country was then divided. The U.S. then tried to help South Vietnam defeat North Vietnam. "President John F. Kennedy rounded another turning point in early 1961, when he secretly sent 400 Special Operations Forces-trained (Green Beret) soldiers to teach the South Vietnamese how to fight." (Andrew J. Rotter The Causes of the Vietnam War) The U.S. had no reason to send 400 soldiers because Vietnam has nothing to do with the U.S. The U.S. helped France because France is a long time ally of The U.S.

The American citizens during the Vietnam War were furious about the U.S.'s involvement in the war. The American citizens didn't know why the U.S. got involved. Citizens started making false facts about the war to make the U.S. look bad.

Myth: Most American soldiers were addicted to drugs, guilt-ridden about their role in the war, and deliberately used cruel and inhumane tactics.

The facts are:

91% of Vietnam Veterans say they are glad they served [Westmoreland]

74% said they would serve again even knowing the outcome [Westmoreland]

There is no difference in drug usage between Vietnam Veterans and non veterans of the same age group (from a Veterans Administration study) [Westmoreland] (Gary Roush Statistics of the Vietnam War) The majority of the soldiers that server in the Vietnam war were volunteers that were proud to serve their country. The soldiers that went to war and

the citizens that didn't had very different perspectives to the war. The citizens were outraged, but the soldiers were honored. Even though the U.S. had no reason the soldiers still served their country proudly.

I think the U.S. should have never got involved in this war and I believe that the U.S. was afraid if North Vietnam won against South Vietnam the unified country would then conquer neighboring countries and spread communism throughout the world. I think the matter would be best handled by the U.N. instead of the U.S.

6/13/06

Bristol

A Life's Journey: Reflection

The original assignment was to write a descriptive essay explaining if you agree with this quote "The right good book is always a book of travel it is about a life's journey"

I chose this piece because I was able to write about two books I enjoyed, A Christmas Carol and Candide. I liked this piece because I was able to compare two very different pieces of literature. Dickens writes about a grumpy old man and Voltaire writes about a very lucky/unlucky man. This assignment showed me how closely related any two stories can be. Any book can be related to another book and have some things in common. Every book is about a life's journey.

This piece demonstrates how well I can make connections between two different kinds of literature master pieces. I'm proud of how I made connections to A Christmas Carol and Candide.

I think if I would've written more, which I could have because I liked both pieces then I would've done a better job.

doesn't expect to be punished he thinks that something good will come out of this action and finds out something bad actually happens. Candide learns that not EVERYTHING happens for the best in all possible worlds. One false answer and it totally make the theory wrong.

In *A Christmas Carol*, Scrooge sees his past and how his life was good. Scrooge finds out that he had a good life when he was younger and doesn't know why he is a bad guy now. While Scrooge was with the ghost from Christmas past he notices that he had a better life when he was poor than right now while he is rich. Scrooge learns that you don't have to be rich to have a good life Scrooge was poor and had a better life than he has now. Scrooge needs to learn how to have fun with all the money he has he should be having more fun than when he was poor.

The right good book is always a book of travel; it is about a life's journey because in a life's journey there are lessons to be learned and is always exciting. A life's journey is usually about the lessons learned in life. Without lessons in a book, without a moral in the book it is not a good book.

4/4/06
Bristol

A Life's Journey

Charles Dickens' "*A Christmas Carol*" and Voltaire's "*Candide*" are about a life's journey. I agree with the quote "The right good book is always a book of travel it is about a life's journey" because a life's journey is always exciting. In a life's journey there are a lot of twists and also a lot of lessons to be learned. A life's journey always has a lesson to be learned.

In *A Christmas Carol*, Scrooge sees the future he finds out that the future is not what he wanted it to be. A Speaker at Scrooge's funeral said "It's likely to be a cheap funeral". There were a few guys talking in Scrooge's funeral but none of them were sad about his death most of them were yawning showing that they didn't care. All they cared about was what happened to Scrooge's money. Scrooge notices that when he dies nobody cares because he was such a cruel person when he was living and now that he's dead all they don't seem to be sad. Scrooge learns that if doesn't start being nice then he will die a lonely death nobody would care and eventually be forgotten.

In *Candide*, Candide falls in love with Cunegonde. While living with Cunegonde he gets tutored by a philosopher named Pangloss. Pangloss believes that everything happens for the best in all possible worlds, but Candide finds out that not really true. When Candide kissed Cunegonde the baron caught them; "The baron chanced to come by; he took note of the cause and effect, and without hesitation saluted Candide with some notable kicks on the rear". While Candide thinks everything happens for the best he

6/13/06
Bristol

Devotion: Reflection

The original assignment was to pick a main idea in Othello. I chose Devotion.

I chose this piece because it was one of my first and it was one of my best. It shows my understanding of a difficult text and how analytical I can be. In this assignment I liked how I broke down the text and how I made connections to different characters. I also analyzed the quotes from the play very well.

This piece demonstrated that I can make connections in a different text. It also showed how I can brake down a play from a long time ago, to make someone of my age and generation, understand this play.

I am proud of how well I analyzed the quotes and I am also proud of my thesis statement. I think it was my best one all year.

I think if I would have made text to self, text to world, and text to text connections I could've done a better job. I also think I should've made it longer.

1/16/06
Bristol

Devotion

Love and devotion can overcome any obstacles. William Shakespeare in his play, *The Tragedy of Othello The Moor of Venice*, shows how Desdemona's feelings for Othello communicates ideas about devotion. Desdemona's love and devotion for Othello was unflinching.

Shakespeare describes Desdemona falling in love with Othello when she says, "The rites for why I love him are bereft me". (1.3.292). Desdemona cannot use words to describe her love for Othello. Desdemona said this in front of her father to prove that Othello didn't brainwash her or use witch craft to make her fall in love with him.

Another way Desdemona shows her love for Othello is when Othello returns from a fight with the Turks. "The heavens forbid/But that out loves and comforts should increase/Even as our days grow". (2.1.210-212). She's saying we don't belong together maybe because of race, but they will still love each other no matter what. Othello's love for Desdemona was challenged by Iago.

Lastly, when Desdemona has feared something was wrong with Othello she asks Iago for help. "And his unkindness may defeat my life/But never taint my love." (4.2.189-190) Desdemona says that Othello has been pretty mean, but that will not make her stop loving him. Her love will stay true forever even despite Othello's actions to her will make her change her mind.

All in all, Desdemona's love toward Othello was stable throughout the whole play. Desdemona showed her devotion for Othello even while his mind was tainted by Iago's evil lies. Othello's jealousy of Cassio and Desdemona's relationship led to the death of Desdemona.

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ENJOY!!!

6/12/05

Sperling

Myself as a Student

I am not a serious student, especially when I sit next to people I know. I hardly pay attention in class and I don't do all my homework.

I do well when we do group work and when we do work from a novel that I enjoy, such as Romeo and Juliet. I don't do well in history because it is boring and pointless in my opinion. I only take notes in class, but I don't study. I guess I can say I'm a gifted student.

Last year I didn't do very well in English, but this year I think I'm doing better because English and history are in one class.

This year my best work came from the books that we have read in class. I don't do well in history because it is a lot of information to study and to me history is pointless. However people seem to think otherwise.

I know I can do much better in class if I try, but I don't. I like to work in my home where I have privacy and alone time. I always leave projects

for the last day the project is due because I can't start something then stop doing it and start again. I get a different flow each time so it will sound like two different people writing one project.

Next year I hope to improve in my history grades and I want to be able to hand in a project a day before the project is due.

MHSHS

Portfolio

Teacher: Irom/Sperling/DeFeo

Date Submitted: 6-15-05

Title of Work: My Portfolio

	Criteria				Points
	20	17	14	11	
Overall Organization	All components of portfolio are clear, present, well-organized, and complete.	Most components of portfolio are present, organized, and complete. Might be missing a revision or contain an unsatisfactory reflection.	Fulfills some requirements of the portfolio. Missing two or more components.	Fulfills few if any of the requirements of the portfolio. Missing many / components.	17
Creative Presentation	Fulfills all visual requirements. Portfolio excels in neatness and creativity. Goes above and beyond.	Fulfills most visual requirements. Is neat and creative.	Fulfills some of the visual requirements. May be lacking in neatness or creativity.	Fulfills few if any of the visual requirements. Is messy and/ or lacks in creativity.	17
Reflections	Exhibits an exceptionally honest, candid ability to reflect upon one's self and work in the overall self-reflection, all other reflections and portfolio conference.	Exhibits a basic ability to reflect upon one's self and work in the overall self-reflection, all other reflections and portfolio conference.	Is lacking in some aspects of one or more reflections. Displays an incomplete ability to reflect on one's work in writing or conference.	Is lacking in many aspects of many of the reflections. Does not display an ability to reflect on one's work in writing or conference.	15
Revision Process	Has shown exceptional and thoughtful revisions in every piece of work. All revision drafts are present.	Has shown thoughtful revisions in every piece of work. Most revisions are present.	Has shown revisions in some pieces of work. Some revisions are present.	Has shown insufficient revisions in many pieces of work. Few revisions are present.	17
Mechanics and Grammar	Components have no errors in punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	Components have one or two punctuation, capitalization, and spelling errors.	Components have several punctuation, capitalization, and spelling errors which do not hinder the ability to comprehend.	Components have several errors in punctuation, capitalization, and spelling which hinder the ability to comprehend.	15
				Total →	81

Teacher Comments:

MHSHS

Portfolio

Bristol

Name

Teacher: _____

Date Submitted: _____

Title of Work: _____

	20	17	14	11	
Overall Organization	All components of portfolio are clear, present, well-organized, and complete.	Most components of portfolio are present, organized, and complete. Might be missing a revision or contain an unsatisfactory reflection.	Fulfills some requirements of the portfolio. Missing two or more components.	Fulfills few if any of the requirements of the portfolio. Missing many / components.	<u>14</u>
Creative Presentation	Fulfills all visual requirements. Portfolio excels in neatness and creativity. Goes above and beyond.	Fulfills most visual requirements. Is neat and creative.	Fulfills some of the visual requirements. May be lacking in neatness or creativity.	Fulfills few if any of the visual requirements. Is messy and/ or lacks in creativity.	<u>14</u>
Reflections	Exhibits an exceptionally honest, candid ability to reflect upon one's self and work in the overall self-reflection, all other reflections and portfolio conference.	Exhibits a basic ability to reflect upon one's self and work in the overall self-reflection, all other reflections and portfolio conference.	Is lacking in some aspects of one or more reflections. Displays an incomplete ability to reflect on one's work in writing or conference.	Is lacking in many aspects of many of the reflections. Does not display an ability to reflect on one's work in writing or conference.	<u>14</u>
Revisions	Has shown exceptional and thoughtful revisions in every piece of work. All revision drafts are present.	Has shown thoughtful revisions in every piece of work. Most revisions are present.	Has shown revisions in some pieces of work. Some revisions are present.	Has shown insufficient revisions in many pieces of work. Few revisions are present.	<u>14</u>
Mechanics and Grammar	Components have no errors in punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	Components have one or two punctuation, capitalization, and spelling errors.	Components have several punctuation, capitalization, and spelling errors which do not hinder the ability to comprehend.	Components have several errors in punctuation, capitalization, and spelling which hinder the ability to comprehend.	<u>14</u>
				Total—>	<u>70</u>

Teacher Comments: