

## Portfolio (Reflection Paper)

One valid criticism of traditional classroom assessments is that the students themselves have no significant input in determining what will be assessed. The Portfolio assessment is an attempt to empower the student in his or her own assessment process. There will therefore be a portfolio grade, worth **25** points at the end of each quarter, based on a portfolio of work *by which you would like to be judged*.

Here is how it will work. For each quarter, you must produce a paper that describes specific struggles and/or achievements learning math during this quarter. In many cases attaching some form of evidence to support your story would be helpful. These might include a quiz you struggled with corrections you made, notebook entries, or even a sheet of work that you and a tutor (sister, brother, friend in class) worked on outside of class where you had a major breakthrough. The important thing is that each portfolio entry should give me *evidence of your learning and struggling that I otherwise would not have known about*. A perfect quiz, while certainly good evidence of your learning, is not a good portfolio item -- because the evidence already resides in my grade book.

It's ok to talk about things in the classroom that work for you, but it should not be a "My teacher is great and I love the class so please give me 25 points thank you very much...". It's just as important to talk about things that don't work for you, or your struggle to get better at something. It's very important to talk about what happens outside the classroom that you have done to better master the skills you need each quarter.

I would be glad to discuss any item with you before it goes into the portfolio. (This will provide an occasion for you to explain your selection to me, and for me to react to your choice in your presence.). Since the intent of the portfolio is to communicate your learning to me in ways that go beyond what my gradebook already tells me, my assumption will be that the portfolio can only help your average, and it will be graded accordingly. However, if your portfolio is *incomplete, missing, or carelessly shoddy*, you will lose major points for showing lack of diligence.