

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

CREATIVE WRITING CONCENTRATION EPORTFOLIO

During your years as an English major at BU, you will be compiling an electronic portfolio of your best work, both in the Department and elsewhere: other classes, co-curricular activities, clubs, internships – wherever you create something smart, beautiful, interesting, or skillful.

We ask this for three reasons:

- to give you an ongoing sense of what you are getting from college;
- to make sure you have a strong collection showing your knowledge and skills for employers and applications for further education;



- to help the English Department assess how well we are meeting our own goals.



STEPS IN ASSEMBLING THE EPORTFOLIO FOR CREATIVE WRITING STUDENTS

1. In English 203: Approaches to Literary Study, create one ePortfolio on the BOLT software. If you use BOLT, you'll never lose what you've created; it will be saved on the BU server. If you prefer to create your ePortfolio for graduation in a different platform, such as Wix or Weebly, you may do so.
2. Start adding “**artifacts**” (that’s what BOLT calls the items in your collection). Anything that can be saved can be added. Maybe start with something you wrote in English 203 — you can always remove it later. If you need help with the technical aspects of the ePortfolio in BOLT, make an appointment with a WALES consultant.
3. From now on, anytime you create something you’re proud of, put it in the ePortfolio. By the time you are in your third year, you should have a good collection of your work in both Creative Writing and Literature classes, but you should also have some important examples of things you’ve done in other classrooms and out of the classroom altogether. Anything you’re proud of. **The minimum number of artifacts to be included by graduation is 10.**

Organizing and Filling your ePortfolio

If you know now the kind of job you’d like to find after graduation, get some experience now. If you want to be a professional writer or journalist, join the *Voice* staff. If you want to work in website design, take some Instructional Technology or Professional Writing classes. If you want to go to law school, take some pre-law courses, and maybe minor in Political Science.

To show that you are part of the writing community, provide examples of work published in student literary journals (Bloomsburg’s or others) and scanned programs from readings such as at A Taste of the Arts or other conference presentations

Your advisor can help you think through your future, but the first question to ask is “what are you good at?” Anything you can do well can be leveraged into a job. But you can’t just say you’re good at it; you have to have examples to show. You may want to create tabs to organize your materials according to the skills they illustrate, such as: **Creative Non-Fiction, Poetry, Document Design, Newspaper Writing, Literary Analysis, Research, Blogging, etc.**

4. When you see your advisor (at least once a year), show her what you've got so far. Ask advice. Talk about the future. Think about organizing your ePortfolio to best highlight the skills you've learned that will help you achieve your goals.
5. In English 316: The Practice of Creative Writing, which is required for Creative Writing majors, you will work on strategies that will help you use your writing skills after graduation. Work from this class should definitely go into the collection. You will also talk more about the ePortfolio requirement in this class.
6. In English 404: Creative Writing Seminar, in addition to creating a polished writing project, you will also finish the ePortfolio and work on creating different versions of it. To one copy you will add a front-page **Reflection Essay** (details below) explaining how you have met the learning objectives of the Creative Writing major (more detailed instructions will be provided to seniors). That copy will be collected (by email) by the Department Chair as part of your pre-graduation review. **Please send an email link to your ePortfolio to the Chair when you apply for graduation.**

Reflection Essay Details for Creative Writing Concentration

Write a general introductory paragraph and then write numbered body paragraphs that illustrates your progress toward mastery of each of the Program Learning Objectives for the Creative Writing Concentration. Provide one or more example(s) from artifacts to illustrate your progress for each goal. Be sure to clearly explain how the examples illustrate the goal that you are focused on in that paragraph. Finally, write a concluding paragraph for your essay.

Program Learning Objectives

1. Demonstrate familiarity with a range of literary/critical traditions and cultural viewpoints
2. Explain how form, genre, and the history and structure of language relate to the craft of creative writing through critical analysis of varied genres.
3. Write original and inventive creative works.
4. Compose in a range of artistic and professional genres, including new media, showing how creative writing skills can be deployed in a variety of professional opportunities.

Other versions of the ePortfolio will ask you to imagine representing yourself in different contexts. You might wish to pursue that dream of a career in publishing; if so, what do you have in your collection that will show you at your writerly best, and as a responsible person? Or if graduate school appeals to you, what have you done that shows off your skill as a writer and researcher? In this version, you might substitute a **Personal Statement** or a **Cover Letter** in place of your Reflection Essay on the front page. Again, you will discuss this further and work on it in English 404.

The BOLT ePortfolio is stored on the BU server, not online. No one can read it unless you give them the unique url each ePortfolio generates. Within six months of graduating, you will move your artifacts to any of the several free or for-fee services available, or to your website. Again, if you wish to use a different platform, you may. You must submit a working link to the department chair when you apply for graduation and the link must remain stable until you have graduated.



Many of your questions will be answered in English 203, 316, 404, and in advising sessions. But if you ever have questions and need immediate answers, contact Prof. Wemple (jwemple@bloomu.edu), Dr. Lawrence (clawrenc@bloomu.edu), or Dr. Entzinger (bentzmin@bloomu.edu).