

A&S English: Literature

Table of Contents

- Literature Exit Portfolio
 - Senior Exit Portfolio Information
 - The Sample of Work
 - The Reflective Essay

Literature Exit Portfolio

Purpose of the Exit Portfolio

The state of Georgia is asking departments to assess their curricula as part of the graduation requirement. The English Department has chosen a portfolio.

Benefits for Students of the Exit Portfolio

Because the portfolio requires you to reflect on your coursework, it should help you understand what you have learned and why. Moreover, the portfolio can be easily adapted for potential employers and graduate school admissions committees; you will walk away from Georgia State University with evidence of the good work you have accomplished here.

Contact Information

Please contact Dr. Mark Noble (mnoble3@gsu.edu) if you have questions about the Senior Exit Portfolio guidelines.

Senior Exit Portfolio Information

Content of the Exit Portfolio

Each portfolio for English majors with a concentration in literature consists of two parts: a reflective essay and a representative sample of work from English classes taken at the sophomore, junior, and senior level.

- - The Reflective Essay
 - The Sample of Work

Your portfolio should contain, if possible, clean copies of all of your essays—without instructors' comments and grades. You may revise your work before inserting it in your portfolio, and, if you composed multiple drafts of piece, you may also label and submit those earlier versions.

Please label each piece in your Exit Portfolio with the year and semester in which you wrote or created it, and be sure to include your name in the upper right-hand corner of every page you submit.

Assessment of the Exit Portfolio

Portfolios will be read by two faculty members. In the event of widely divergent readings, a third faculty member will read the portfolio. A version of the online assessment form that the English Department's faculty members will use when responding to your Exit Portfolio has been attached at the end of these instructions so that you can see how your work will be evaluated. You must revise and resubmit your portfolio if it is determined to be insufficient.

In general, the faculty members who read your Exit Portfolio will determine whether you have achieved a level of knowledge and writing ability expected of college graduates with a degree in English. The evaluators will focus attention on your overall accomplishments and consider both the depth of your responses in the sample assignments and your improvement as a writer and reader over the course of your studies.

Evaluators will also examine your justification for each piece's selection, your critical insights into your overall accomplishments, and the quality of your prose.

The Sample of Work

The Sample of Work

(4-6 pieces, approximately 20-40 pages): These works should represent a variety of your undergraduate English courses taken at Georgia State. Please include at least one piece that reflects your understanding of critical theory and at least one piece that demonstrates your ability to incorporate research in your writing and to document your sources according to MLA Style. Please do not submit timed, blue-book examinations, as they do not adequately represent your writing.

The Reflective Essay

The Reflective Essay

(4-6 pages, typed and double-spaced): This essay provides the department with a sample of your best writing at the conclusion of your undergraduate career. You should reflect on your development as a reader and writer, think about the range of courses you have taken at Georgia State, and justify your selection of each piece in the portfolio. Your essay should demonstrate, above all, your ability to think and write clearly and intelligently about literature.