

Transitioning to College: Helping You Succeed

<http://www.transitioning2college.org>

Child Development Portfolio Assignment

A portfolio is a collection of assorted materials usually gathered over time and often used in assessment to demonstrate a student's development in a specific area. In this case, you will create a portfolio over the course of the semester that will demonstrate what you know about a specific topic in child development. To demonstrate what you know, you will engage in four activities: collection, exploration, analysis, and presentation. To provide your peers with feedback, you also will engage in a fifth activity: evaluation.

First, you will *collect* artifacts related to your topic of choice. These artifacts will vary widely depending on your topic, your personality, and available resources. Your artifacts must come from two sources: **personal experience** or the **popular media**. One artifact from each of these categories is required for your final portfolio; the third artifact required may come from either category. Examples of personal experience artifacts include detailed descriptions of your own personal experience with a topic, in-depth interviews with individuals who have had personal experience with your topic, or observations of children who have personal experience with your topic. For example, if your topic is children's understanding of war, the following personal experience artifacts might be appropriate: your observations of a child playing war, an interview with a friend who is worried about how her niece is reacting to the war in Iraq, or your own personal memories of the first Gulf War. Examples of popular media artifacts include works of fiction (i.e., novels, movies, television shows, children's books, songs, plays). Again, if your topic is children's understanding of war, popular media artifacts might include the film *Schindler's List* or the book *My Brother Sam is Dead*. Before choosing your final three artifacts, you will need to evaluate each artifact's relevance and contribution to the overall portfolio. Does the artifact help you tell the story you want to tell? Do you have the relevant research to help you analyze it?

Second, you will *explore* the research literature examining your topic. Using specific databases (e.g., PsycInfo), you will find research articles in scholarly peer-reviewed journals to help you better understand your topic and analyze the artifacts you've collected. These sources must be **original research studies** in which the authors report how they collected data (**methods**), the analysis of their data (**results**), and the value of their results (**discussion**). You are required to find at least one research study to compare and contrast with each of your artifacts. Thus, a total of three

research studies relevant to your portfolio topic and your selected artifacts will be required.

Third, you will *analyze* each of the artifacts you included in your portfolio by comparing and contrasting them with the research you found (for a total of three artifact analyses). Each artifact analysis must follow a similar format. In your first introduction paragraph, state why you chose this specific artifact, briefly describing its relevance to your portfolio's topic. In the next 3 to 5 body paragraphs, you will compare and contrast those points from your artifact that you find interesting, unique, thought-provoking, sad, funny, strange, or surprising to the findings of one of your research studies. Ask yourself: do the researchers "agree" or "disagree" with the artifact? Each of these body paragraphs will include a point from the artifact you want to discuss and a citation of the research study to which you're comparing it. In your final concluding paragraph, briefly summarize what you learned from your analysis about your portfolio topic and how this might help your classmates when they are working with or raising children. Remember, your artifact analyses are not meant to be summaries of your artifacts or simply your own opinion. You must **critically analyze** your artifacts using the research you found. Although you may include your opinion within your analyses, you are required to support any assertions you make with evidence from scholarly research studies. In your artifact analyses, use your critical thinking skills to clearly demonstrate an understanding of the portfolio topic. Follow APA guidelines when citing the research studies in your artifact analyses.

Fourth, at the end of the semester, you will *present* your portfolio to your classmates on one of two portfolio review days in the Moulton Hall Ballroom. In your final portfolio, include **a one-page introduction** to your topic (why you chose it and what you hope to learn) and **a two-page conclusion**, summarizing what you learned about the topic (based on your artifact analyses). Make your presentation informative and creative. Help your classmates gain an understanding of what you learned by looking through your portfolio and briefly chatting with them.

In addition, you will provide your classmates with **a one-page (front and back) written handout** describing what you want them to know about your topic (this is likely to be similar to what you included in your two-page conclusion) and providing instructions on how they can seek out more information (e.g., listing websites or references where they can find out more about your topic). Again, cite any sources you used by following APA guidelines. Also, include **your name** on the handout!

Finally, you also will *evaluate* the portfolios of your peers on the portfolio review days you do not present. Evaluation forms will be provided. Your thoughtful feedback is required (see portfolio evaluation below).

Portfolio Due Dates

Topic selection.....	Jan 19
One-page introduction to portfolio and three artifacts.....	Feb 9
Three scholarly research studies.....	Mar 2
Five- to seven-paragraph artifact analysis	Mar 16
Portfolio consultation.....	Apr 6
Portfolio review and peer evaluation days	Apr 11 or 13
Final due date for portfolio	Apr 13

Portfolio Evaluation

To receive all possible points, the components of your portfolio must be **typed, clearly written, proofread, and double-spaced with one-inch margins**. All scholarly research studies (and other sources of information) must be cited and referenced properly using APA style (to be discussed in class). Full points will not be awarded if any of the components of this assignment are turned in late. Your portfolio is worth 25% of your final grade. The following evaluation criteria will be used to determine the final grade for your portfolio:

	<u>Possible</u>	<u>Attained</u>
I. <u>Individual Written Components:</u>		
A. Introduction (follows assignment guidelines)	5	_____
B. Analysis #1 (appropriate artifact choice, good integration of research)	10	_____
C. Analysis #2 (appropriate artifact choice, good integration of research)	10	_____
D. Analysis #3 (appropriate artifact choice, good integration of research)	10	_____
E. Conclusion (demonstrates insight/learning from project)	5	_____
II. <u>Overall Written Communication</u>		
A. Organization and clarity of ideas	10	_____
B. Mechanics (spelling, grammar, punctuation)	10	_____
C. APA style (correct citation of sources)	5	_____
III. <u>Presentation Style</u>		
A. Interaction with classmates	10	_____
B. Handout (content, written communication, appearance)	10	_____
C. Overall appearance of portfolio (professionalism, creativity)	5	_____
IV. <u>Peer Evaluations</u>		
A. Completed required evaluation forms	4	_____
B. Provided relevant and constructive feedback	6	_____
Total =	100	_____