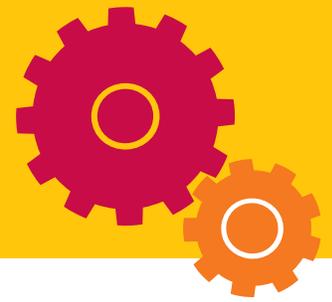


TIPS & TRICKS

FOR STUDENT DIGITAL PORTFOLIOS



Student digital portfolios can allow students to showcase their learning for a wider audience as well as receive feedback from relatives and friends. As they are building their portfolios, they are learning valuable digital skills and beginning to build a digital footprint. Here are some things to consider before you get started.

1. THINK ABOUT THE LEARNING YOU WANT TO SHOWCASE

Do you want this portfolio to be about student goals, a showcase for one part of their learning such as writing development or to feature their learning in all subject areas? Check out some [examples of student portfolios](#) to give you ideas about what is possible.

2. CHOOSE A HOST

What is important to you in a host? Comments? Dated entries? Teacher moderation? Blogs and wikis are commonly used tools for portfolios, but do you have something else that will work for your purpose?

3. THINK BEYOND TEXT

Adding images, video and other artifacts to student portfolios not only makes them more interesting to view, but adds a richness to the content. Some of my favorites are listed below.

4. SHARE THE PORTFOLIOS

Link the portfolios to your school webpage, tweet about the portfolios, encourage parents and others to be regular visitors to provide an audience for your students.

5. ASSESSMENT

For the most part, what is on a portfolio is a summary of what the students are learning—that is, it is a snapshot and not a final product—so use it as formative assessment. If you have made it clear to students that what they are creating is for a grade, as in an end-of-unit project, it then becomes summative assessment.

OPTIONS FOR ADDING RICH CONTENT

Drawing allows young students in particular to show learning in a powerful way.

- Computer based programs – [Paint by ABCya](#) and [Crayola](#)
- Apps – [Draw Free](#) and [Doodle Buddy](#)



TIPS & TRICKS

FOR STUDENT DIGITAL PORTFOLIOS



Voice Recording is another way for students of all ages to use a non-text program to share their learning.

- Computer-based – [AudioBoo](#) is computer-based but also has [an app](#) that saves to your online account.
- Apps – [Croak.it](#) generates a url that can be copied and pasted into a portfolio

Video gives students a chance to show AND tell about their learning.

- Computer based – Any camera or device with video capabilities can be used to record learning in this way.
- Apps – [Educreations](#) and [Draw and Tell](#) both give students a chance to draw or to write words or numbers on a whiteboard and then record their thinking.

In [Connected From the Start](#), Chapter 5 includes more discussion and examples of how she and her students have used these tools to add audio, video and other features to their digital portfolios.

