

Prove Your Learning

Assessing the Portfolio

Think of all of your assignments as Take-Home Quizzes. Show me that you are attentive in class and thinking critically about the content by effectively conveying your ideas by writing in a thoughtful way that clearly articulates your learning.

Characteristics of Thoughtful Writing (What I'm looking for):

- Provide audience with **thoughts, ideas, insight** or **observations**.
- **Support** those ideas.
- Use **specific examples from sources of information**.
- **Pose important questions**.
- Make connections with your **life** and the **real world**.
- **Compare and contrast**.
- **Explore** and **research**.
- **Draw your own conclusions**. Create inferences.

Effective Communication:

- Efficiency, simplify, "to the point," no clutter.
- Organize your ideas. Use paragraphs.
- Proofread. Proofread. Proofread.
- Proper format – See Example Provided

The Check System:

Check Plus – You surpassed the expectation. Your work shows thoughtfulness and insight. You have gone beyond simply answering the questions but have dug deeper and made connections. It is apparent that you have thought critically about the theme, topic, or idea being presented.

Check – The responses may be complete but also lack further exploration. You did what was asked, however there is minimal or no evidence that an effort was made to challenge yourself or explore ideas. Some evidence of critical thinking exists...such as posing important questions, utilizing specific examples from the material or the real world, providing reasoning, explanation, or rationale for your answers, thoughts, or ideas, however such evidence may be limited.

Check Minus – Content does not illustrate your understanding of topic, themes or ideas. Perhaps missing a number of questions or elements of the assignment. May be ineffectively communicated or difficult to read or understand. Little or no evidence of critical thinking exists...such as posing important questions, utilizing specific examples from the material or the real world, providing reasoning, explanation, or rationale for your answers, thoughts, or ideas.