Portfolio Strategies
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Portfolios are collections of writing: for many teachers, two characteristics of successful portfolio teaching are student choice of material for grading and reflective writing. Students get credit for drafts and process writing, but not grades: a grade conference at midterm is a good idea to keep students aware of their progress. Writing during the semester is seen as process: the portfolio is the product. Students offer their best work for grading with a portfolio letter at the end of the semester, for a grade on the body of work presented. When WAC begins the ePortfolio project, we will ask that all writing teachers in the disciplines at the junior and capstone level require students to add at least one writing sample from each class to the ePortfolio.

Advantages for students
- Choice
- Time to develop authority as writers
- Opportunity to develop responsibility for writing in reflection

Advantages for teachers
- Responsibility shifts to students
- Less time in grading, more time in responding and guiding: credit for drafts and steps toward larger writing projects with grade reserved for final portfolio
- Cover checksheets for responding and grading

Scenarios
- Several kinds of writing projects in several categories allowing for student choice in what’s evaluated
- One extended project, with intervention by teacher, group revision, and reflective writing
- Reflective writing: cover letters and the portfolio letter

Process Writing: intervention differs for different steps
- Invention—writing to learn, exploring topics, prospectus: group talk
- Drafting—organization concerns, attention to assignment and format: group talk, modeling by teacher
- Revision—audience and purpose concerns, conventions of discourse community: group workshops
- Editing—correctness and concerns of style of discourse community: group workshops

WAC will offer consultants for classroom support on process and Portfolios.
Sample Cover Sheet for responding or grading:
When possible, use good sections of the paper to explain how others can be improved:

➢ Clarity (see student cover letter)

➢ Development (see student cover letter)

➢ Attention to assignment

➢ Format, editing and style

Suggestions for Revision