

Guiding Questions for ePortfolio Essays
Updated June 3, 2021

These guiding questions are intended for students to use as they create their ePortfolio essays and engage in peer critiquing activities. They will also be used by faculty in evaluating the ePortfolios. Essays will be scored on a PASS/REVISE basis. Faculty committees will provide feedback for suggested revisions. Essays should be free of typos.

Introductory Essay

1. Do you state your chosen pathway, professional goals, and aspirations?
2. Do you paint a personal picture that is compelling, original, and provides context for the reflective essays?

SLO Essays

1. Do you reflect on and describe your growth in understanding and applying the SLO in relation to your artifact? (Examples: What challenges you encountered; what insights you gained; what you would do differently if you could do the project again, etc.)
2. Do you provide sufficient context for the reader to understand the purpose of your artifact and your process in creating it?
3. Do you integrate at least two professional/scholarly (peer-reviewed) references that support points made in your essay?
4. Do you identify specific skills and/or experiences that contribute to your being an effective LIS professional?
5. If your artifact is a group project, do you identify your specific roles and responsibilities?

Concluding Essay

1. Do you detail what steps you will take to achieve your professional goals and aspirations?
2. Do you explain how you plan to apply what you have learned to a specific information environment, problem, or community of interest?

Optional Questions for Essays

Feel free to use any of these questions to help you in constructing your specific SLOs in your reflective essays. You may not need to answer all for each SLO, but they're here if you're stuck! 😊

SLO1 Services

1. Do you showcase the skills and/or experiences you developed in information services for specific users and communities? Do you give examples?
2. Do you demonstrate your application of professional criteria and standards for information services?
3. Do you reflect on specific information services that are important to your professional role as a librarian and critical insights that influenced your professional philosophy?
4. Do you reflect on why it is important to create and assess instructional and outreach resources? Do you give examples?

SLO2 Professions

1. Do you describe the role of ethics in library/archive services and operations? Do you refer to the basis or the particular code? Do you relate this to your artifact and its process?
2. Do you discuss what ethical questions or development of a professional philosophy are involved in your specific artifact?
3. Do you discuss how this artifact and its process changed and/or deepened your perception of librarianship and the information professions?
4. Do you clearly state your professional philosophy in 1-2 sentences in your essay? Do you use your artifact and its process as examples?
5. If applicable, do you explain the relevance to contemporary ethics and professionalism of your historical research artifact?

SLO3 Resources

1. Do you demonstrate an understanding of as many of the following as possible that are relevant to your artifact: how information resources are created, discovered, evaluated, organized, managed/preserved, and disseminated? Do you give examples?
2. Do you reference any professional standards in relation to your artifact? Do you discuss the importance of these standards? Do you give examples?
3. Do you demonstrate an understanding of issues and/or techniques of preserving physical and/or digital objects? Do you give examples?
4. Do you demonstrate an understanding of multiple systems/sources with which to search, organize, retrieve, evaluate, and/or synthesize information? Do you give examples?

SLO4 Technologies

1. Do you describe how you evaluated systems/technologies in your artifact process? Do you give examples? Do you evaluate the appropriateness of technological solutions considering multiple factors? (e.g., functionality, cost effectiveness, adherence to professional standards)
2. Do you discuss and/or reflect on integrating emerging technologies into your professional practice? Do you give examples?
3. Do you describe the purpose that technology serves in library and information service settings? Do you give examples?
4. Do you critically explore the social context and implications of your technological decisions?

SLO5 Cultures

1. Do you demonstrate how you applied LIS principles to meet the needs of a specific community or communities? Do you use your artifact as an example?
2. Do you discuss and give examples of cultural competency and/or community engagement practices in relation to your artifact? Do you reflect on the importance of each/either?
3. Do you demonstrate understanding of the social, cultural, political, and/or economic context of information services and systems? Do you give examples?
4. Do you discuss how you analyze diverse information needs within the same community? Do you give examples?
5. If applicable, do you discuss Indigenous research paradigms or aspects of Critical Theory as conceptual frameworks for serving diverse communities?

SLO6 Management

1. Do you discuss the importance of management skills with your artifact and its process as examples? (e.g., needs assessment, budget, evaluation)
2. Do you discuss how you applied basic theories, ethical aspects, and/or principles of administration for effective management in your artifact?
3. Do you reflect on the skills needed for leadership, public relations, and/or advocacy? Do you give examples?
4. Do you discuss budget creation and/or funding, in relation to your artifact? Basic human relations? Personnel management? Do you give examples?