

Mini-Portfolios

A Supplementary Assessment Tool

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Mini Portfolios

- * Why Supplementary Assessment?
- * What are Mini-Portfolios?
- * How Could This Work in the Adult Education Class?
- * How Can I Make This Work With My Students? (You will make a mini-portfolio!)
- * Where to Get More Information.

Why Supplementary Assessment?

- * Standardized, multiple choice tests only give so much information, which may not have direct meaning to the student.
- * Many of our adult learners are not proficient at test taking and suffer test anxiety.
- * Learners need tangible, meaningful ways to measure their progress and manage their learning.
- * Providers can use supplemental assessment to show stakeholders student progress.

Alternate Assessment

- * Also known as authentic assessment.
- * Focuses on demonstration of competencies. The EDP takes this approach to high school completion.
- * "...Engaging and worthy problems or questions of importance, in which students must use knowledge to fashion performances effectively and creatively. The tasks are either replicas of or analogous to the kinds of problems faced by adult citizens and consumers or professionals in the field." -- Grant Wiggins -- (Wiggins, 1993, p. 229).

Traditional Vs. Authentic Assessment

Selecting a Response ----- Performing a Task

Contrived ----- Real-life

Recall/Recognition ----- Construction/Application

Teacher-structured ----- Student-structured

Indirect Evidence ----- Direct Evidence

From <http://jfmuller.faculty.noctrl.edu/toolbox/whatisit.htm>

Which One?

- * Should not be an either/or question as standardized tests continue to be important.

- * Dr. Jon Mueller's chauffeur example:

Would rather hire the person who performed well on the driving portion of the license exam but flunked the written than the other way around.

However, really wants the person who did well on BOTH parts of the license exam.

What are Mini-Portfolios?

- * A way for students to demonstrate their learning in your class by careful selection of their work.
- * A device to help your students reflect on and own their learning
- * A simple project that can be constructed with report folders and other items from an office supply store.
- * Meant to be used in the course of a quarter year class.

Portfolios

- * Used in K-12 and university education to demonstrate learning.
- * Portfolios can be used to show best work and growth, but also can be used to indicate how students have met course objectives or standards/competencies.
- * Portfolios are also used in certain professional settings.

How Can Mini-Portfolios Work in the Adult Education Class?

- * As you draft your objectives for the quarter, consider ways that students can show that learning. Ex. Knowing parts of a resume can be shown by drafting a simple resume.
- * Present the idea of the mini-portfolio at the beginning of the term.
- * Show a sample and discuss how this will be a tool for them to measure their progress in their learning.
- * Explain that they will be choosing 3 items that term to show their learning.

How Can Mini-Portfolios Work in the Adult Education Class?

- * Ask students to write weekly reflections on their learning in the Weekly Summaries portion of the mini-portfolio.
- * Keep mini-portfolios in class.
- * Confer with students formally or informally about items they may insert in their mini-portfolio.
- * Build in class time once a month where students can add an item and write a reflection on it.

How Can Mini-Portfolios Work in the Adult Education Class?

- * If possible, have an end of term conference to discuss portfolio and future steps in learning.
- * Add your reflection on the student's progress in the appropriate section.
- * Have student write a cover note.
- * Make a copy for the student to keep and place original in student file.
- * Now you have something to show more than numbers the student, yourselves, and stakeholders!

Sample Mini-Portfolio

Cover Sheet: Created by the student with name and what they have learned this quarter. A way to begin the prompt could be:

“This quarter I learned about _____ + _____. I know that I learned this because now I can do _____ . I will can use this in my life when _____ .”

Sample Mini-Portfolio

Exhibit 1

- * Student's reflection on exhibit

Exhibit 2

- * Student's reflection on exhibit

Exhibit 3

- * Student's reflection on exhibit

Sample Mini-Portfolio

Weekly Reflections or Summaries from the student

Potential prompt questions: What did I learn in class this week? How can I use that knowledge? What questions do I have?

Teacher Reflection (end of term): How did the student demonstrate that he or she met the objectives for the class? How can he or she grow in this area?

The Importance of Reflection



- * Reflection is the process of thinking and expressing your thoughts about what you do.
- * Important to show students how you reflect on a task.
- * Give students time and regular practice (Weekly summaries).
- * Reflection is what will make the portfolio meaningful to the student.

The Electronic Option

- * A way for students to practice their technology skills!
- * Can upload Word files, photos, and other files.
- * Can link to an online video
- * Can be kept private for viewing by select users.
- * I used Google because it is free and fairly easy!
- * Let's check it out:
<https://sites.google.com/site/campbellminiportfolio>

How Can I Make This Work With My Students?

- * Think about objectives you have for your class.
- * What are other ways that you have students demonstrate their knowledge?
- * What ways may be meaningful to your students?
- * What ways may be meaningful to your stakeholders?
- * Check CASAS competencies for ideas:
<http://www.casas.org/docs/pagecontents/competencies.pdf>

Now put together your own model that could work for your class!

Where to Get More Information

- * <http://jfmuller.faculty.noctrl.edu/toolbox/index.htm> for information about authentic assessment and portfolios
- * <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/use-online-portfolios-in-classroom-heather-hiles> More on using e-portfolios
- * <http://www.teachervision.fen.com/assessment/teaching-methods/20153.html>
- * http://www.ehow.com/how_4750121_utilize-portfolios-classroom.html



Thank you. I would love
to hear your thoughts.

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