

1. Response Synthesis

Points to share with the class:

- Portfolio pieces should reflect the types of places you want to work.
- Because of this, good portfolio building requires research.
 - Look for effective linkedin pages, social media accounts and portfolios from people who have the job you want.
 - Imitation is not a bad thing.
- Start saving work early, and keep everything.

Points I will use when I'm designing my portfolio:

- Provide a narrative for portfolio pieces.
 - Talk about why the piece is important to you.
- Get feedback from others.
- Make sure it's accessible on mobile browsers as well.

2. Questions and Responses

Q: Why did you choose the pieces in your portfolio?

A: I chose the pieces in my portfolio to reflect the work I was most proud of, and what projects I believed best represented what the types of places I wanted to work were looking for. I pictured myself working in a nonprofit/technology setting post college, so many of my pieces reflect a mix of those interests. I now work as a user interface designer for a healthcare company - so these projects need an update! :)

Q: How do you choose pieces that represent your skill set?

A: I did a lot of research. I first looked at people who I admire, and people who have jobs that I found to be inspiring. I would read through their LinkedIn pages, portfolios, social media profiles - everything. This would give me a better sense of what they do, where they've worked, and how they talk about themselves professionally. I also did a lot of research into the kinds of companies I liked, and tried to see how they described their culture, and what skills they were looking for in positions that I could do. I tried to use these things to inform the way I talk about myself - and I still do this all the time! I think it's kind of an ongoing process as you learn and grow.

Q: Now that you have some distance from PW, how would you critique your portfolio?

A: I would be a little harsh on my portfolio :) First, I used it as an opportunity to learn CSS/HTML so much of the design is stuff I did myself on top of a Wordpress theme. As a result, it looks really bad on mobile devices, doesn't load well, and I can't change it very easily. I might recommend using something like Squarespace or another cool website builder that you can easily update. Don't stop building websites - just don't make your portfolio something you can't update easily! If you want to change something quick before a job interview, something like Squarespace can really help you - and it looks really good.

Q: Do you have any tips about creating a portfolio page that you wished you had known when you were making yours?

A: I learned this a little later, but definitely describe your process when writing about your portfolio pieces. Talk about your approach to the work, and why it matters to you. All of these things are good ways for people to get a sense for how you think and what your values are, besides just seeing what cool stuff you can make!

Q: What did you learn while building your portfolio?

A: I got to practice my HTML and CSS skills which was nice! I also learned a lot about my own work and how I wanted to present myself after college, which was incredibly helpful. It helped me be more thoughtful when applying for jobs and eventually doing a year of service as an AmeriCorps VISTA. It gave me a lot of good perspective about myself. Take this time to critically think about yourself as an opportunity and really challenge yourself! It will pay off.

Q: How did you choose what colors and headings to use?

A: I tried to keep my colors and fonts pretty minimal when building my portfolio. I kind of modeled it off of other people that I think have effective portfolios. Do some research into what people you like, and see what they use to build their portfolio. Imitation is not bad!

Q: Did you keep your portfolio updated throughout your time here?

A: I did not keep my portfolio updated throughout school - I made it my last semester of my senior year... I don't recommend this! Start saving your work early!

Q: Did you find it useful after graduation? If so, what was the most useful part?

A: I find my website incredibly useful all the time! Along with my social media presences and personal blog, it's helpful to have another space where I showcase my work. It was really helpful at any point that I've been on the job hunt, and I will continue to revise it all the time!

Q: Do you have any other insight pertaining to a PW portfolio?

Have fun with making your portfolio! Do not be scared of sharing it with others - do that frequently. Your work is cool!