

NAME  
DATE  
CREATIVE WRITING  
Ms. Valenza

### Personal Essay Portfolio Page

Your task is to write a reflective mini essay in which you clarify what you learned during the personal essay unit. For each topic listed, describe what you now understand, what you learned how to do, and why it is important.

TOPIC	KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS GAINED What do you know about this now? What can you do now that you couldn't before? How have you improved in this area?
<b>Voice in writing</b>	I definitely learned a lot during this essay writing period. I don't remember the last that a teacher went through the entire process, start to finish, of writing an essay and such an in-depth tutorial really helped me. Not only did it reaffirm the writing techniques I already knew and employed, but it taught me a plethora of new ones. The hardest part of writing an essay for me is unequivocally starting the writing process. Expressive writing and reflective writing contributed a lot to the entire process. It effectively eliminated writer's block by mapping any and all thoughts that popped into my head. Your advice on how a draft should be constructed was useful for overcoming the barriers that come with starting an essay. Using visual thesaurus was also really useful to find synonyms as well as find how many times I used certain words to avoid repetitive diction. Finally, the "print and proofread" method was more effective than I thought it'd be. I suppose having something tangible in your hands to read makes for better proofreading. I'm quite glad about how my essay turned out and I hope that I really get across my love for piano and coding and how they've shaped my life.
<b>Expressive writing</b>	
<b>Reflective writing</b>	
<b>Pre-writing</b> Free writing and notes	
<b>Drafting</b> (Visual Thesaurus, adding stories/anecdotes, expressive and reflective writing)	
<b>Revising</b> (Vocabgrabber, traits that are revealed, intro, conclusion, hooptedoodle)	
<b>Editing</b> (mistakes matter, search document, print & proofread)	
<b>Publishing</b> What do you hope your readers will feel/think?	