



Cheryl Mitchell, a 2013 MSU graduate, created an online portfolio in WRA 210. The following were questions posed to her about that profile, and how she used her PW skills in her career.

Sam: What is your current job and how did your Professional Writing major at MSU help you prepared you for it?

Cheryl: I am currently an assistant English teacher in a primary school in Spain. I help teach the English language and American culture to the children, as well as the teachers. My Professional Writing degree helped me in my ability to communicate better with others, which is necessary in my current position. I am teaching a different language so I have to be able to provide different formats and examples for different type of individuals.

Sam: How has your portfolio helped your career?

Cheryl: I am not sure how my portfolio has helped my career, but I can say it has helped me in my ability to show different things I can offer. I feel as though it makes me stand out among my peers because I have something that offers different levels of insight to who I am and what I can do.

Sam: How did you design your portfolio?

Cheryl: I designed my portfolio from scratch using a host site. It was a lot of work but once you start it's so hard to stop, well at least for me because I enjoyed it. When I first started I found sites I liked and copied their code and then made it to what I wanted.

Sam: Why did you choose the items you included in your portfolio to represent your skills?

Cheryl: I chose them because I feel they show my experience and passions. It's pretty simple, I want people to be able to get an idea of who I am by just looking at my site. People can google me see the work I have done and get a better idea of my experience before an interview or after.

Sam: Do you still use and update your portfolio today?

Cheryl: Currently no, but I plan on adding things in the future.



The “So What”

From Cheryl’s answers, it is evident that her portfolio has propelled her in her desired career path. The portfolio outlined her skills and deliverables, and made her stand out amongst her peers that have not created and maintained a portfolio.

Cheryl used a design that reflected her passions and her personality- something important to keep in mind when designing something that will be representing you as a professional. She made herself available through a simple google search which is a very valuable tool in today’s work force.

Cheryl’s current job is fairly unusual for a professional writing graduate, which just showcases the program’s versatility. Even though Cheryl is applying her PW skills in a very unique way, teaching children over seas, her portfolio is still an incredibly useful resource for her to have.

In preparation for creating my own portfolio, it was helpful to understand the aspects of design Cheryl incorporated in her portfolio. It’s also useful to know that bits of code are out there to use; if I see something I like somewhere I can start with that code and make it my own.