Electronic Portfolios: Best Practices to Help Increase Student Ownership and Engagement

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Introduction

Meet me!

Bridget Farrell

Why did I become interested in knowing more about electronic portfolios and how they can impact students’ sense of ownership and engagement?

A real-life issue needed a solution!
What is an electronic portfolio?


That’s what we’re here to find out today!
Participant Introductions

Please share the following with colleagues next to you:

1. Name
2. Position in the district
3. Experience with electronic portfolios
   a. Have you used e-portfolios before? If yes, in what capacity?
   b. What is your general attitude toward e-portfolios?
Objectives

Today we will accomplish the following:

1. Know the different types of e-portfolios
2. Identify best practices with e-portfolios
3. Learn how implementation can impact students’ sense of ownership and engagement
4. Plan next steps for changes within your classroom
An e-portfolio is a repository to collect, organize, and share student artifacts. The e-portfolio facilitates self-reflection, assessment, mixed media, peer interaction, and academic development.

Different Types of E-Portfolios

Learning Portfolios
Assessment Portfolios
Mixed Purpose Portfolios
### Types of E-Portfolios

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Learning E-Portfolios</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Student driven</td>
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<td>- Shows complete picture</td>
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<td>- Shows change over time</td>
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<td>- Focuses on the process, not necessarily on the final product</td>
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<td>- Students create and manage</td>
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<td>- Reflection!</td>
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Types of E-Portfolios

- Standards and assessment driven
- Compilation of student artifacts that demonstrate mastery of standards
- Accountability tool
- Shows attainment of goals
Some argue that combing purposes creates conflict, as each portfolio has different aims. It is therefore important that teachers, schools, and districts assess their needs prior to portfolio implementation.
After learning about the e-portfolio types, which type of e-portfolio does your current practice reflect? Why?

OR

Which type do you think will best fit your school or classroom? Why?
Best Practices with E-Portfolios

- Best practices must be considered for:
  - Schools
  - Teachers
  - Students
  - Student families
Best Practices for Schools

- Conduct a systematic study of needs to determine type of e-portfolio
- Train teachers
- Set up an intentional design or structure for e-portfolios
Best Practices for Schools- Example

Example School E-Portfolio Contract
Best Practices for Schools - Example
Best Practices for Teachers

- Model what an end product should look like
- Model what the process should look like
- Model what reflection on one’s work should look like
- Provide feedback
- Teach students and families to provide feedback
Possible Student Reflection Prompts:

- What did you learn? How did you learn? Why are you learning?
- This is an example of something I learned ...
- This is an example of something I have improved on.
- I used to think ... Now I know ...
- I had difficulty with this work because ...
- How can I use what I learned in my life?
- 2 Stars and a wish
- Main idea, 3 details, conclusion
- Head, Heart, Hand (What did you learn? How are you feeling? What will you do?)
Best Practices for Students

- Collaborate: share learning and discuss content with other students, teachers, family members, etc.
- Participate in the creation of the "look and feel" of their e-portfolios
- Allow for student voice: share e-portfolios at conferences, through recordings, etc.
- Reflect on their learning
Best Practices for Students - Examples
Best Practices for Student Families- examples

Share possible prompts to share with student families:

- Wonderful work! I like how you _______________.
- I am proud of you because ________________.
- Your work makes me wonder about ____________.
- Ask a meaningful question, such as, “What about this artifact makes you feel proud?”
What best practices have you already implemented? Which do you want to improve upon?

OR

What will you need to do to implement some of these best practices within your classroom?
How Implementation of Best Practices Can Impact Students’ Sense of **Ownership** and Engagement

- Students are excited and motivated and to take responsibility in collecting and sharing their work.
- Students are likely to have an increased sense of ownership when they are the ones managing their work.
- When students provide evidence or a rationale with their work, their sense of ownership increases.
- When students can design the look or appearance of their portfolio, (within a given structure), they have a stronger sense of ownership.
- The stronger “student voice” the more ownership- the better
How Implementation of Best Practices Can Impact Students’ Sense of Ownership and Engagement

- Greater sense of ownership = increased engagement
- Personally meaningful learning = increased engagement
- Audience - when portfolios are shared with peers, teachers and/or family members, it is an authentic learning experience = increased engagement
- Motivated, excited students; easier classroom management; uploading artifacts got faster as the year progressed; more time spent on task
Ownership and Engagement Simplified

Student Ownership

- Students as managers: They drive the creation and selection of artifacts
- Students are expected to explain what is in their e-portfolio and why.
- Within a given structure, students are allowed to personalize their e-portfolios.
- A strong “student voice” is present in the e-portfolio; includes reflection.

Student Engagement

- When students have a strong sense of ownership, when their learning is meaningful, they are more likely to be engaged.
- When students have an authentic audience, their peers, teacher, and family, they are likely to be engaged.
- E-portfolios are engaging and motivating for students.
Engaging students is NOT the same as occupying their time.

It is therefore imperative that educators enlist best practices to allow students to meaningfully engage, take ownership, and demonstrate their learning.
Here’s what my third-graders have said about their e-portfolios:

“It helps me learn!”

“I like it because you can make videos, draw, add your own audio, and share with your friends.”

“I like that my parents can see it.”

“Your teacher can tell you if you missed something. Then you can go back in and fix it.”

I like that you can take pictures and your parents can find out what you did during the day.”

“I like that you can see your friends’ work.”

“It’s fun to look back at what you’ve learned!”

What best practices can you connect to these responses?
How can this fit into your classroom?

*Application is a must!*

- If you already have student e-portfolios, please open one up. Look at current examples. Where do you see application of best practices or potential application of best practices?
- If you don’t, create a plan of next steps for implementation.

*Use your e-portfolio handout and this presentation to guide you.*
Reflection and Wrap Up

What will you take away from today’s learning? Please share your thoughts using the link below.

Professional Development Reflection Form
Resources

