

# Reflective Writing in ePortfolio

Middlebury School in Japan

## Course Objectives:

Each of you will develop an ePortfolio in this course. A portfolio is “a purposeful collection of student work that tells the story of the student’s efforts, progress, or achievement in a given area.” Throughout your stay in Japan, you will be documenting your path to a greater understanding of the Japanese cultures and languages as well as your own cultures and languages, and eventually a deeper understanding of yourself. You can use your portfolio for reference throughout your undergraduate career and beyond.

One class hour each week is dedicated to your portfolio management, but most of your work will be done outside the classroom. The class hours will be used to address technical issues, to share examples of good practices, and to keep everyone on track.

As a result of participating in this course, you will:

- Develop a deeper understanding of yourself. You will reflect on the changes you recognize in yourself and your surroundings as you make efforts to adjust your ways of being in a new culture using a new language.
- Maintain and develop your Cultural Portfolio.

## Cultural Portfolio:

Your portfolio will consist of the following:

1. **Cultural Analysis:** Revise and upload the final version of your composition assignments in Exploration of Contemporary Japan course.
2. **Essays:** Revise and upload at least four (4) compositions that you write as homework assignments in your JLP course, making sure to revise your assignment by looking at the comments given by your instructor(s). The final version should be uploaded in the portfolio. You may wish to add in this category the papers you write in other content courses (J).
3. **Trips:** Create at least two (2) entries that describe a trip away from your “comfort zone.”
4. **Days in Japan:** Create at least eight (8) entries that contain incidental or informal observations, i.e., **description** of objects (*mono*) or **narration** of events (*koto*).

\*Use photos/pictures effectively to get attention of your audience and enhance their understanding. Use at least one (1) photo in each post and remember that the first photo in each post will be used automatically as its thumbnail.

## Grading Criteria

- Spontaneous Writing
  - Days in Japan (10)                      50%
  - Trips (2)                                      10%
- Structured Writing
  - Cultural Analysis (6)                      30%
  - Essays (4)                                    10%

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Total	100%
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We expect you to attend all scheduled sessions. You will lose 5% of your total grade for each absence starting at the 3<sup>rd</sup> absence.

A (94-100)    A-(90-93.9)    B+(87-89.9)    B (84-86.9)    B- (80-83.9)  
 C+(77-79.9)    C (74-76.9)    C- (70-73.9)    D+(67-69.9)    D (60-66.9)    F(0-59.9)

Each Portfolio Entry will be evaluated on the following criteria:

	Language	Content
10 p ts.	Excellent, with very few errors.	The writer analyzes the evidence in support of the argument. Interpretation is insightful and persuasive, and displays extraordinary depth of thought. May pose original ideas.
9 pts.	Incorporates recently learned materials, goes well beyond “bare minimum.” Errors are more nuanced.	The writer analyzes the evidence in support of the argument. Interpretation goes well beyond what has already been discussed in the sources.
8 pts.	Meets all the requirements. Errors are limited to predictable ones at the level.	Meets all the requirements; the discussion is focused and the flow of argument is coherent. Observations are exactly to the point.
7 pts.	Numerous “careless” errors, eg. using hiragana for basic vocabulary, error on conjugation, length too short.	The writer fails to analyze the evidence in support of the argument. Interpretation is not fully persuasive or insightful.
6 pts.	Incomplete / Unacceptable	The analysis does not go beyond personal opinion that is not supported by the evidence or the source.

(last modified 09/02/2018)