

Walkabout Portfolio Packet

Portfolio Introduction:

Walkabout is a process driven place. Portfolios are a performance based, student-centered process to document your rite of passage journey and demonstrate the skills, capacities and awareness you have gained along the way. The goal of the portfolio process is to help you develop the discernment with which to evaluate your experiences and identify how best to represent your resulting academic, personal and professional growth. Throughout this process you will gain insight into where you've come from, who you've become and where you are going.

You are in charge of documenting your journey beginning with:

- examining a broad range of your work collected over time
- analyzing and assessing your progress
- planning and managing your time to complete the work
- integrating experiences from each Challenge Area
- setting targets and developing action plans

Assembling your portfolio is an exercise in project management that will require the marshaling of all the skills you've developed thus far.

Portfolio How To:

This portfolio is a **CELEBRATION** of your growth over the course of your Walkabout. It is an honest and positive reflection and demonstration of your accomplishments.

This "How To" is a broad outline for approaching the many facets that will make up your portfolio. Ultimately, you are the arbiter of this record, as with everything else in your life, and therefore you will decide how it takes shape. Our purpose here is to simply demystify some of the requirements.

Section #1 - The Personal Statement:

This is a 1-page articulation of where you locate your most important sources of growth and accomplishment, how you achieved it and how it will determine your next steps in life.

Think about Walkabout's Goals and "5 Key Assumptions." They are the foundational principles of the program and govern everything we do with you.

From the first time we tell you, "Yes, you are going to climb *that*," we are pushing you to go for the best in yourself: to try something you're not sure you can do, that you have more power than the rain or the weight of your pack, that any and all missteps along the way are teaching you something, to hike with your head instead of your feet, that getting up the mountain is up to you. These are the means through which you gain the confidence, direction, positive outlook, skills and responsibility necessary to achieve the things that you want in your life.

So, when composing your personal statement, ask yourself, *Where am I in relation to these goals and assumptions? What are the most salient elements for me? Where did I learn them? What am I going to do with them?*

Section #2 - Learning Outcomes:

This is basically the skills portion of your portfolio. It's asking you to use examples from work you have done this year to demonstrate the skills you have gained in a particular area. Simply, what do you know how to do now that you didn't know before?

Examples of Experiences & Evidence that Demonstrate Your Learning:

Collaboration:

Community is the cornerstone of Walkabout, which provides ample opportunity for collaboration.

- Working together as a patrol to prepare and have a successful backpacking trip
- Networking for SL/INT
- Working with others at SL/INT
- Project Based Learning/Design Thinking
- Community projects/events
- Town Meeting

Career Preparation

There are 2 challenge areas and a class devoted to helping you develop career direction and professional skills.

- Service Learning/Internship requires making a professional phone call, interviewing, working with adults, being on time, being accountable, time management and career direction. At the end of each, you will have an RP Eval, a Self-Eval, artifacts, a project and a presentation.
- Internship Prep Class includes writing a professional resume and cover letter, gathering references, interview skills, networking and interest inventories.
- Internship Summary – this is an analysis of your internship, the skills you gained from it and its relevance to your future plans.

Civic Engagement:

How have you participated in the Walkabout community, your local community or the world?

- Your Service Learning project is an obvious way of giving back to the community.
- Being a part of the Walkabout community provides one with ample opportunity to contribute to the school and your peers in and out of the classroom.
- Town meetings are an exercise in citizenship.
- Keeping to the Walkabout Agreements is an integral way to act ethically and to contribute to the strength of the community.
- Throughout the curriculum, you will work on real solutions to issues facing the community and the world.
- Humanities classes will engage you with the origins and functions of democracy, along with the systems and structures that inhibit it.

Curricular Literacy:

This section is asking you to demonstrate your expertise throughout the academic curriculum. You choose assignments from the content areas that exemplify your grasp of the subject. You will do much that you are proud of this year, some of those things might be:

- Something you designed/built
- A piece of visual art/music
- A class you taught

Written Proficiency:

This one is pretty straightforward; simply provide 2 writing samples that showcase your writing ability.

- Creative Writing
- Science Research Paper
- Proposals
- Reviews...

Oral Proficiency:

One of the many things in which you will gain confidence this year is public speaking. From the very beginning of the year during orientation, we get you talking to each other, sharing about your life and your interests, your academic work and life experiences. We have an expression at Walkabout, "Everyone is a teacher." One of the ways you come to see that in yourself is by having a lot of chances to speak in front of the community.

- Town Meetings
- Classroom discussions and reading your work
- Presentations given in class
- Exhibitions during AA, at the end of SL and INT
- End of year Presentations
- Speaking with district administrators and prospective Walkabout students

Critical Thinking:

Another cornerstone of a Walkabout education is the development of critical thinking skills. The classes, experiential opportunities and community are designed to help you discover, confront, and develop your own ideas about yourself and the world. As a critical thinker your job is to improve the quality of your thinking by analyzing, evaluating and reflecting on situations, synthesizing information, applying reasoning gained through research, experience or observation. You will be involved in this process throughout your time at Walkabout.

- Problem solving in the wilderness, during SL/INT, in Town Meetings and design thinking projects during AA
- Classroom discussions and evaluating the work of your peers
- English classes where you are asked to do a critical analysis of your work and revision based on analysis and feedback from the community
- Research projects where you have to conceptualize a topic, evaluate, analyze and synthesize information
- Goal setting and reflection

All of these experiences have prepared you for the critical thinking requirement:

The analysis of an idea, issue, perspective or trend in a subject matter and medium of your choice.

Section #3 - Life Planning:

A fundamental component of the program is direction. Whether you plan on going to college right away or taking some time off, you always need a plan. Direction doesn't necessarily mean that you know what you want your career to be; it means that you feel confident that you have gained the skills, knowledge, attitudes and self-awareness to be an effective adult.

- SL/INT will give you concrete professional skills that you can take anywhere as well as exposure to fields of interest that you may pursue in the future.
- Internship Prep Class will give you resume writing, interviewing and networking skills.
- Time and Financial Management will help you learn how best to utilize these valuable commodities to help you achieve your goals.
- AA gives you the opportunity to develop collaboration, project management, problem solving, public speaking and discipline specific skills.

So, what will the next phase of your life be? What is your plan for getting there? How do you see yourself utilizing the skills you have learned to be successful in this next phase?

Post High School Plans: College, Gap Year or Work - Whatever you plan on doing following graduation, you have to have laid the groundwork.

This means:

- You have been accepted to **college**, have a concrete plan for your success, understand how it is being paid for and your accountability related to it during and after graduation, how it contributes to your long term goals (career). **Or**
- You have a **gap year** planned - You have deferred college for a year, you have an organization you'll be involved with/travel plans, a financial plan, how it contributes to your long term goals (college/career). **Or**
- Work - You have a **job** lined up, a financial plan, how it contributes to your long term goals (college/career).

Section #4 - Goals:

This final section asks for an assessment of how you have lived up to the goals that you set for yourself so far. Did you meet them? How? If not, why not? What will you do differently?

You are also asked to identify two additional goals for the next phase of your life, one academic/professional and one personal, and your plans for meeting them.

Portfolio Logistics:

You will use your Google accounts to upload documents, projects, media, etc....

You will each have a Portfolio Advisor with whom you will begin meeting during Service Learning.

At this first meeting you will:

- begin to discuss YOUR vision for the portfolio & deciding on a platform to use
- go over requirements
- set up systems for organizing your material
- set an agenda, tasks and goals for your next meeting

Now You Are Ready to Begin:

- Start uploading documents. (You won't use every assignment for the final portfolio, but you should still upload all of your work to your account in order to have a comprehensive body of work from which to choose.)
- Stay on track and manage your time effectively in order to complete tasks agreed upon in your previous meeting. As with everything at Walkabout, you are accountable for getting things done, however, we will spend some time on it during advisory and work study.

Portfolio Meetings Throughout the Year:

- You will go over tasks you have completed from previous meetings.
- Determine what platform you will use for your portfolio
- At the end of each quarter you will evaluate the body of work that you have generated, choosing items that you would like to include in your finished product.

- You will go over and assess the goals you have set for previous challenge areas.
- You will set tasks for your next meeting.
- You will give your advisor a final draft of your portfolio to review 3 weeks prior to your portfolio defense.

Required Documents/Products to be Included in your Portfolio:

The following items form the substance of your portfolio and will be dispersed throughout its 4 sections.

1st Quarter:

- Goals for the year
- Goals for Wilderness
- Goals for SL
- Individual Learning Plan
- SL Self and RP Evals
- SL Presentation & Project
- Assessment of where you are in relation to the goals you set for the year and Q1 challenge areas and what you need to do to get you closer to them
- Exemplars of work in all content areas

2nd Quarter:

- Goals for AA1
- Exemplars of work in all content areas
- College Essay
- Assessment of where you are in relation to the goals you set for the year and Q2 and what you need to do to get closer to them

3rd Quarter:

- Goals for Int
- Resume/Cover Letter/References/Elevator Pitch/Networking Tracker
- Int Self and RP Evals
- Int Presentation & Project
- Assessment of where you are in relation to the goals you set for the year and Q3 and what you need to do to get closer to them
- Exemplars of work in all content areas

4th Quarter:

- Goals for AAll
- Exemplars of work in all content areas + Science Research project, English Final Self-Eval
- Assessment of where you are in relation to the goals you set for the year and Q4 and what you need to do to get closer to them