

Template for Teaching Portfolio Independent FLEX Project

1. ***Provide a 4-5 sentence description of the activity.***

This independent FLEX project will entail my creating a teaching portfolio, which is a factual description of my teaching strengths and accomplishments. It will include documents and materials which collectively suggest the scope and quality of my teaching performance. By completing this project, I will think meta-cognitively about my teaching, assess whether or not what I do in the classroom actually matches up with my teaching philosophy, provide a concrete direction for my continued professional development, and demonstrate and quantify in meaningful ways the dedication and effort I invest in my teaching.

2. ***State the learning outcomes for the activity and explain how participants will meet them.***

During the creation of the teaching portfolio, I will

- systematically analyze my teaching skills
- assess the strengths of my classroom practices
- demonstrate teaching effectiveness
- develop and write my own personal philosophy of teaching

I will meet these outcomes by developing the many components of the portfolio as described below.

3. ***Describe the measurable product that will result from the independent flex project and provide a timetable with benchmarks for completion of the product.***

To create the teaching portfolio, I will do the following:

- i. I will compile materials that I have produced myself, including writing my teaching philosophy and/or reflections on my teaching skills and accomplishments, descriptions of my teaching responsibilities, course syllabi, and assignments. Total time required: 8 hours
- ii. I will collect materials from students and colleagues. Such items may include student evaluations and comments, unsolicited emails or other correspondence from students, peer evaluation reports, and any other teaching honors or awards that I have received. Total time required: 5.5 hours

- iii. I will provide evidence of effective teaching. This can include assignments or projects completed by my students, records of student success during and after my tutelage, and videos of my classroom practices. Total time required: 7 hours

4. *Describe how you will disseminate and share (as appropriate) the product of your independent flex project with your colleagues so as to support the mission of the college. Consult the Professional Development Director if you need advice about the most appropriate way to do this.*

I will post copies of the documents contained in my teaching portfolio on the Professional Development website under the section on sample independent FLEX projects. Doing so will help the college in a number of potential ways:

- i. By allowing colleagues to initiate discussions with me and others based on the teaching practices and ideas spelled out in the document;
- ii. By providing the first in a database of examples of teaching portfolios which other colleagues can turn to as examples in compiling their own teaching portfolios;
- iii. By helping me become a better instructor by rejuvenating my love of teaching, allowing me to think meta-cognitively about my teaching, and enabling me to assess the degree of coherence between theory and practice in my classes;
- iv. By helping to strengthen a climate on campus which values teaching and professional development.

I will also submit the documents as part of my post-tenure review which will allow both me and my evaluators to get more out of the process: I will benefit from the opportunity to think in a more in-depth and systematic way about my teaching philosophy and practices, and my committee will benefit from obtaining more specific, more highly-developed insights into my intentions and approaches as an instructor.