

# CREATE YOUR OWN COLLEGE PORTFOLIO



Does your dream college's admissions office require a **portfolio**? Or do you want to **stand out** from your peers? Whether you're a freshman or a senior in high school, **it's not too early to start** gathering portfolio materials for your college application.

## WHY BUILD A COLLEGE PORTFOLIO?

Along with requiring transcripts and essays, college admissions officers are looking for **your unique personality and interests** to shine. A college portfolio highlights your:



GOALS



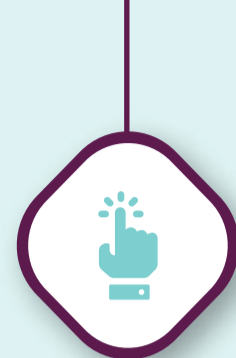
SKILLS



PASSIONS



ACHIEVEMENTS



POINT OF VIEW

## WHERE SHOULD I START?

**Start by gathering your resources!** Taking inventory of what you'd like to share with a college admissions officer will help you make the rest of the portfolio come together.

**First, do your research** to find out exactly what your prospective college is looking for. If the college already has portfolio requirements, make sure you've included any and every special request.

## EXAMPLES OF PORTFOLIO ITEMS:



ATHLETIC AWARDS



RESEARCH PAPERS OR PRESENTATIONS



JOB HISTORY OR RESUME



CREATIVE WORK



SUMMER PROGRAMS



CERTIFICATES OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Include pieces that speak to your **personality and passions**. Your portfolio should simply **highlight your top interests and skills**.

## HOW SHOULD I LAY OUT MY PORTFOLIO?

College admissions officers have a lot of applications to sort through and not a lot of time. Make sure the materials you've included make your portfolio stand out!



One of the easiest ways to organize your portfolio is **by chronological order**, starting with your most recent materials.



Depending on how many **different types of materials** you've chosen for your portfolio, you may want to sort different materials into individual sections.

*For example, if you're an aspiring artist, you may choose to sort your art pieces by charcoal, watercolor, photography, etc.*



**If you have many different passions**, and you'd like to highlight each individually, consider separating your portfolio by topic. Place your top interests at the beginning of the portfolio and work down.

*For example, if you're most passionate about basketball, consider placing any basketball awards and achievements at the beginning.*

## WHAT ABOUT THE DESIGN?

**The finishing touches!** You have all of your materials together and sorted, so you're ready to design your portfolio and let it shine. **Get creative, but remember to also keep it professional and fairly simple.**



**Stick with a color scheme.** This will help make your portfolio consistent and fluid.

**Place a watermark or logo on each page** that will identify the page as a part of your portfolio. This will help you stick out in an admissions officer's mind.

It will also make it easier to put the pages back in order if your portfolio gets separated.

Add tabs

and labels

to each section

for easy navigation. With so little time, admissions officers will appreciate the direction.

## INCLUDE A COVER PAGE



with your **first and last name**,



Then add your **address**,



your **high school name**,



email **address**,



and your **year of graduation**.



and **phone number**,

so that an admissions officer can contact you or find your corresponding documents. You can **add some flair** to this page but remember to **keep it simple**.

## YOU'RE NOT DONE YET!

**Don't send that portfolio just yet.** Consider having someone you trust look it over, such as a **parent, counselor, or teacher**, for grammar, mistakes or suggestions. Putting together a portfolio is a lot of work. You may have missed something. **It happens!**



Above all, make sure you're **proud of what you've put together** and that it **reflects who you are!**



**CONNECTIONS ACADEMY**

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