***WE Learning Outcomes***

**LO1: Describe meaningful connections with Wayne State peers, faculty, staff, and campus resources. [red bold]**

*LO2: Demonstrate foundational skills necessary for undergraduate-level academic and personal achievement at Wayne State University. [blue italic]*

LO3: Relate the value of attending WSU to the student’s own academic and personal pursuits. [green underlined]

LO4: Develop self-advocacy to optimize the use of campus resources and academic opportunities. [purple small caps]

# *Sample Assignment*

# Final ePortfolio: (25% of grade)

For this assignment, you are asked to think critically about your first semester at college and express this through a collection of short responses and artifacts. This portfolio is to be technology- based, presented using ePortfolio. In order to create an ePortfolio, go to Canvas, click on settings, click on ePortfolio, and create a new portfolio.

Your portfolio should be very clearly organized and should be easy for your instructor to review. Your writing should showcase your ability to produce quality first-year student work. Your reflection paragraphs and utilization of technology should demonstrate that a high level of thought and time was put into creating your portfolio.

# Final Portfolio Requirements:

* Introduction Page (10 points)
* Goal Setting and Achievement (30 points)
* Academic Success Story (30 Points)
* Campus and Community Connection (30 points)
* WE Reflection (10 points)
* Portfolio artifacts, mechanics, and organization (30 points)

**Introduction Page**

Review your reflection from Week 2. Address the following:

* 1. Personal Statement
     + Describe the path that led you to Wayne State and your expectations for your college experience.
     + Why are you in college?
     + What are your hopes for after graduation from Wayne State?
  2. Include a photo, video, or artwork that relates to your personal statement

**Goal Setting and Achievement:**

Review your goals that you set in Week 6.

1. *Please reflect on two of these goals (academic, financial literacy, wellness, career development, etc.) you set this semester. Are these goals still valuable to you? Why or why not? If not, what are your new goals?*
2. How will your reason(s) for being in college motivate you to accomplish your goals?
3. Explain one challenge you had this semester and how you used your strengths to overcome it.

**Academic Success Story:**

1. *Choose a piece of work from any class you took this semester of which you are most proud and attach it to this page.*
2. *How does this assignment demonstrate evidence of your learning?*
3. *Why are you most proud of this work? Why was it a meaningful learning experience for you?*
4. *Include the full assignment as a photo, video, document, pdf, or URL link*

**Campus Connection**

1. **Identify a campus connection with a faculty or staff member that had an impact on you this semester.**
   * **How does this connection make you feel a part of the Wayne State community?**
   * **How will this connection enhance your college experience?**
2. **Reflection on your campus connection this semester (student services, events, student organizations) and answer the below questions.**
   * **During this semester, how connected did you feel to Wayne State’s campus community?**
   * **How did the remote environment impact your ability to connect with campus?**
   * How did you overcome any challenges connecting with campus this semester and what do you want to do moving forward to create more connections?
3. **Include a screenshot, video, email, etc. that represents one of these connections.**

***Sample Introductions***

**Student #1:** The path that led me to Wayne State was the prior experience through my own family and how close it was to my home. My mom and uncle both went to Wayne State for their undergraduate degrees and I was able to talk with them about their experiences and they both expressed how enriching it was for their education and growth as human being throughout their four years. It expanded not only upon their academic knowledge but also their moral standards and values. This played a role in leading me to Wayne State, my personal family connection. My expectations for college are that I'll be challenged not only through my academics but as a person as well. The experiences will shape me and there are somethings that can't be taught, that jobs and managers look for in their employees, such as kindness, sympathy, and an understanding of different viewpoints. My hope is that I'll be looking at the world in a different way after college and I'll appreciate everything there is and understand why individuals are the way they are.

I am in college to expand my education and opportunities as a human being. Also for me, I never really thought of going a different path other than college. The world we live in today is so complex and competitive, so it's especially important to have a diverse education where I am able to connect with so many amazing students and professors who want me to succeed and have growth.

My hope for after graduation from Wayne State is that I will understand my values better and obtain a job that not only pays well but I also truly enjoy. Understanding oneself is the key to being happy and college is the place where we'll learn most about ourselves. I will make mistakes, I will fail, I'll learn and then I will do better. It'll be an opportunity each and every day to grow as an individual. I'm also hoping to have a better understanding of others after graduation. College is also the time to expand out of the comfort zones we all put ourselves in. I want to open myself up more because it'll allow me to understand more people in the real world and different types of perspectives.

**Student #2:** I am a freshman majoring in Computer Science. I am determined to work hard and maintain my GPA throughout the four years of college. I wanted to get the best education in the field that I major in so after researching the best colleges for a Computer Science major, I found that Wayne State is affordable and also ranked as one of the best schools for Computer Science. Besides, Wayne State is also known for having excellent professors and faculty. These are the main reasons why I chose Wayne State over many other schools that I had applied for.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I missed out on the greatest opportunity of building meaningful relationships with students and faculty on campus. Besides gaining the best education and experience in the field I major in, my greatest expectation for my college experience is to engage in the WSU community and build many relationships with people I meet. I want to enjoy and create memories with the people with whom I spend on the WSU campus. In addition to my academic growth, I want to focus on my personal and professional growth as well. This is what I want to get out of my college experience. Until now, after graduating from Wayne State, my hopes were to work as an intern in an established company and gain experience in this field after which I had plans to work as a software developer. Eventually, my goal was to work as a project manager. But now I am rethinking and doubting myself as to whether I really want to continue with my Computer Science major. So in the future, I do not know if I will be continuing with my Computer Science major or work on something else!

**Student #3:** I moved to Michigan before my senior year. I attended Lumen Christi High School in Jackson Michigan for my final year of high school. While I was there I played offensive and defensive line for the varsity football team. My athletic abilities are what gave me the opportunity to play Football at the collegiate level. After a year of tough decisions and college visits, I decided to take my academic and athletic abilities to Wayne State University. It was not an easy decision, among Wayne state were other schools such as ; Northern Michigan, Lawrence Tech, Concordia, and a couple D3 colleges. had I chosen to not pursue a college football career I could have gone to Eastern Michigan, University Of Michigan, or Miami university Ohio. Wayne State offered to pay for my schooling completely, and it was an offer I could not turn down. I am in college because I know that college is a very important step in what I hope to achieve. MY goal after completing college is to attend the medical school at Wayne state and continue to study and become a Plastic surgeon.

***Sample Goal Setting and Achievement Sections***

**Student #1:** *One of the academic goals that I had set myself this semester was to enhance my time management skills by starting to work on my daily assignments earlier in the week. This goal is still valuable to me as it would benefit me to have excellent time management skills throughout my time in college. This skill helps me become more productive, focused, and determined. Also, proper time management helps in having a balance between my social and academic life. It is my first priority as a college student to maintain my GPA, do academically well, and also gain proper knowledge in the field of Computer Science.* This is one of the main reasons why I am in college and without proper time management, I would not be able to complete my assignments on time and I would end up procrastinating. If I do not give time and effort into the work I do and if I end up simply finishing the assignments instead of actually understanding what I am doing, I would not be well educated in the field of study.

*One of the wellness goals that I had set was to not eat food one hour before going to bed for one month. This goal is still valuable to me because eating food before going to bed is very unhealthy and can negatively impact my health. I had gained some weight in the past summer break and the main reason for it was my unhealthy eating habits. However, setting this goal to control my eating habits has had a positive impact on my overall health and fitness. In additon to it, being healthy has a positive correlation with good mental health and academic well-being. So I know that this goal would benefit me in the long run.* *If I do not stay healthy, it can have an adverse effect on my academics. Therefore, I will continue practicing healthy eating habits and I would avoid eating food one hour before going to bed in the future.*

One of the challenges that I had this semester was a group project for my American History class. None of my group members showed interest in even starting the group project. So I had to take the leadership role in choosing the topic and making the group members do the work. I had to assign specific tasks to each of the students in my group and make them do the work.

Fortunately, we got our project early on time and was able to submit it.

**Student #2:** *Two goals are spending no more than two hours on homework on Sundays every week for one semester and Interacting with at least one-two friends via text or phone call for at least 30 mins each week for one month*

1. *The two goals listed above are still extremely valuable to me. This is because they assist with creating balance in my life. The one about minimal homework on Sundays is especially important because it's an opportunity to connect with family after a long week. Now if there's something due the next day I can't wait, but if there are no pressing matters to take care of it allows me to recharge instead of always running on full energy twenty-four-seven which isn't healthy for my self-care. The other goal about talking with friends is especially important during these times and the current world we live in. It allows me to stay connected in my social-network and express what's going on in each other's lives at the moment. It reminds me that there are always people with us and willing to talk no matter what we're going through.*
2. My reasons for being in college will motivate me to accomplish these goals because it will show responsibility and dedication. For example, the reason I'm trying to minimize the amount of homework on Sundays is that I work very hard every other day during the week. If I did nothing every single day then there wouldn't be a point in basically taking Sunday off. The other goal reminds me that with hard work comes rewards. The reason I want to have a balance is to not lose sight of what's important. The goal of talking with friends for 30 mins every week allows me to reconnect while also sharing about my studies. It's an opportunity to blend education and friendship with the people you care about the most.
3. One Challenge I had this semester was a massive research project in my English 3010 course. It was a 15-17 page paper and it scared me at the beginning. However, I took a breathe and said to myself "you can do this". Now here we are at the end of the semester and the hardest part of this paper is behind me. I just took my time and did everything in steps instead of waiting until the last second to do it. This demonstrates my time-management skills and how much I care about my work. It also challenged me to something that scared me a lot, but I was able to overcome it and it feels really good when you're able to push through something.

**Student #3:** *I want to Get my BIO 1510 grade up to a 75 so that I can pass the class and not have to take it later in college when I am taking even harder classes. This is still valuable because I need to pass this class for my major. By my 2nd year I will be a starter on the football team. This goal is very important to me and has been my whole life. I want to be as successful as possible in football because it is a huge part of my life.*

These goals will motivate me to stay in college because in order for me to be able to enjoy my life in the future, there are more difficult things i must push through now.

Personally the biggest challenge for me was turning in all my assignments on time. not being in person it was hard for me to remember to turn stuff in so what I did was whenever I had something due, I would write it on a sticky note and put it on my wall so I would always see it.

***Sample Academic Success Stories***

**Student #1:** *The assignment that I have attached on this page is a group project (PowerPoint presentation) that I did for my American History class. This assignment contains carefully researched information on our topic of the Michigan government's role in the Flint Water Crisis. All the information that I have presented in this PowerPoint presentation is paraphrased and written after having a great understanding of the topic. I am most proud of this work because I can confidently say that I have put immense effort into creating this piece. I was very satisfied and happy with the final outcome of this project. It is very rare for me to get enthused by an assignment. But I was able to see joy in my face after completing this presentation. Certainly, this project was a meaningful learning experience for me. I had to overcome many challenges while working on this project. The group members whom I worked with were not supportive and cooperative in the beginning of the project. So I had to step in and lead the group in completing this project. This was one of the challenges I faced this semester as I played a role more than that of a group member. So in a way, I can say that my leadership skills that I thought I never possessed was revealed through this project. I am very glad that I had to face those challenges as it helped me realize that I am capable of doing many things. So I would say, besides gaining knowledge on the subject of the presentation, I was able to uncover my hidden talents and skills through this project.*

**Student #2:** *My proudest piece of work from this semester is the Polish cuisine YouTube video I made for my Survey of Polish Culture class. I am proud of this piece because I went above and beyond to make this video. I spent much more time on it than was required of me, and for that I received my reward. My teacher personally addressed me in front of the whole class and applauded my work. She claimed that it was exceptionally done and that it looked professional. I had also shared the video with my friends and peers, from whom I received positive feedback as well. I was proud that I took an assignment, which could have otherwise been ordinary, and made it worth remembering. This video became the first YouTube video I ever made.*

*This assignment immersed me into Polish culture first-hand. By cooking and tasting Polish cuisine, I experienced the same things Polish people experience and felt much more connected to the class. I think I achieved the fundamental goal of the class, which was to give students a taste of the polish way of life. Besides that, I also learned to make YouTube videos. This assignment was the first YouTube video that I have ever made, and I am proud of the quality of my first video. I learned how to record videos, edit them and narrate them. I learned to merge multiple clips into one cohesive video. I learned to add filters and the right choice of music to achieve the mood I wanted the audience to experience.*

*Overall, this project was a valuable learning experience for me. I learned to take ordinary activities and make them extraordinary. If I had done the assignment with the same mentality as I do my other assignments, which is to “get it over with”, I would not have sparked my creative side. While making the video was much more time consuming than the other choices I was provided, I did not feel burdened in the slightest because I was enjoying the process. The key takeaway from this assignment for me was that any activity that feels like a burden can be made fun. Fun activities are always easier to get started on, which also adds on to the benefits of making my assignments more enjoyable using my creativity. I learned many lessons from the creation of a single video, and for that I am* ***content****.*

**Student #3:** *I am most proud of my engineering mid-term exam. I got a 78, I was a nervous wreck going into the exam, I had no confidence that i would pass. I am so proud of this assignment because it helped me gain the confidence I needed to succeed in the class. It taught me to trust what I know and what I have learned.*

***Sample Campus Connection Sections***

**Student #1: The faculty that has had an impact on me this semester is Kevin Deegan-Krause. Emailing** **back and forth with KDK has helped me learn about opportunities on campus, feel connected to my honors college and HON 1000 class, and feel the warrior pride that people talk about. Knowing there's someone whos fighting for me and my educations best interests makes me feel like part of the Wayne State Family. This connection will motivate me to keep on the honors tract, push me to learn, and possibly help me get an on campus job doing something I care about!**

**Overall, I've felt relatively connected to the WSU community. Being on campus and emailing with my professors have been the two things that allowed me to feel like I belong here and I'm really grateful for those opportunities. The remote learning has definitely affected my ability to learn the layout of campus and the education buildings which is upsetting sometimes. It's also been hard to make friends in my classes which online classes as their isn't an easy way to talk and connect on zoom. Moving forward I want to focus on the friends I've made in Formula SAE, the ESports Team, and in the dorm. I'm so thankful for those connections and I need to remember that even though online school isn't ideal, it doesn't have to be a total wash.** I've overcome the challenges of connecting with campus this semester by going on walks and exploring campus on my own and with my roommates. During the scavenger hunt, Ellen and I walked all around the engineering building and visited all the spots on campus we would normally be visiting every day. This helped me feel like I was a part of this school and community even if I'm not visiting these places every day.

**Student #2: One of the staff members who had an impact on me this semester is my professor for the Basic Engineering 1060 class. I communicate with professor Elizabeth a lot via emails. With just communication through emails, I feel very connected to the professor. I am very comfortable and open to this professor and this connection gives me a sense of belonging to the Wayne State community. This connection would enhance my college experience because now I am very confident that whenever I face a problem at WSU, I can reach out to the WSU community and not feel isolated.**

**I joined the Campus Activities Team (CAT) student organization this semester. Besides being a member of the organization, I am also part of the marketing committee. I truly enjoy being involved in the activities organized by our team.** One of the main reasons why I joined this organization was to escape the extreme loneliness that I experienced for the past few months. I was frustrated, exhausted, and felt very lonely that I really needed to meet people and talk to them. Since I am an introvert, it was quite a challenge to attend the first general body meeting and be involved in the team. However, I forced myself to take an active role in connecting with the committee. So even though the remote learning environment impacted my ability to connect with people, I overcame the challenge by talking more in the committee meetings and by volunteering in more of the activities.

I want to make the best out of my college experiences. Since I do not live in a dorm, it is going to be challenging for me to make connections with the community after we resume back to in- person learning. However, moving forward, I will try to talk to more people and build relationships with my peers. I will also join more clubs and student organizations to create more connections.

**Student #3: There are many wonderful staff members I met at Wayne State this year. One of the faculty I had a connection with is my computer science academic advisor. This connection makes me feel like I am a part of Wayne State's community because she guides me a lot and makes me feel welcome at Wayne. Usually, I am very hesitant about asking questions because I don't want to bother anyone. I have been like this since middle school, but now that I am in college, I realized how many questions I will probably need to ask in order to succeed. With my advisor, I never have to hesitate before asking a question because she is always welcomed to more questions. Before the year started, I bombarded her with questions, and she took the time to answer all of them, for which I am very thankful. By having the chance to ask so many questions, I also get to enhance my college experience. I always receive feedback on what classes I should take and any other general questions I might ask. Hopefully, I'll connect with more faculty as I continue my college journey.**

**This semester, I did feel quite connected to Wayne State's campus community. I joined 2 student organizations, so I met new people, which is always fun. The remote environment did make it more difficult to connect with others, sadly. Everything is online, so I don't always get to learn more about the people I meet, which is unfortunate. I also feel like I am not exposed to the campus community as much as I would be if we were actually on campus. My friends and I had actually planned before the school year started, about the different places we would go to on campus and the food we would try out and the studying we would do together. Even though we couldn't live up to our college expectations this year, hopefully next fall is different.** One of the biggest challenges was reaching out to people in the student organizations I joined. I was nervous if they might not answer or maybe something would go wrong. This made me join the organizations kind of late into the semester. Next year, when I join more organizations, I will try not to hesitate. Hesitation leads to regrets, which I want to avoid at all costs. It's so important to try to stay involved during a weird year like this. To be honest, I think I have become a more bold person than I was before because of college. Of course, I am still very shy and hesitant to do things, but compared to the past, I think I have developed my socializing skills more, with part of it being due to the want of staying connected in quarantine

**Student #4: An important person for me this semester was my athletic advisor Dr. S. She was the biggest factor in my ability to succeed this semester. she made sure I was on top of my schooling. This connection shows me that Wayne State cares about their students. They could have easily left me on my own and let me struggle, but they didn't.** A campus service that really helped me was the student center. It was a great place for me to go and study when I needed private time to focus on my work. This enhanced my college experience by allowing me to focus on my work.