my portfolio

by [Betsy Damon](http://www.plymouth.edu/webapp/courses2/user/view.php?id=20904&course=16493) - Wednesday, September 25, 2013, 4:14 PM

[*Balancing the Two Faces of ePortfolios* by Dr. Helen Barrett](http://electronicportfolios.org/balance/balancingarticle2.pdf), on page 4, states that an eportfolio "shows your learning over time" and that is one of the negative factors that I see in my eportfolio: I have so much stuff that is relevant that I want to include but who is going to look through it all? Other not so good factors:

* few if any original documents from my teacher ed courses and internship especially the video of my colloquium, the 6th grade tracking unit and the 6th grade literature circles unit
* I'm worried about lifelong storage and running out of storage during my stay at PSU
* I have few documented observations by supervisors

There are a few plusses also though:

* when I reflect, I include extensive notes for next time I do the same or similar activities
* reflection gives me a real sense of ownership of lessons and ideas that have been "borrowed" and adapted
* non-classroom experiences will be showcased too!
* not only will my pride show through but people can see, through my reflections, why I have that pride

The big drawback for me in making this course eportfolio is the structured nature of Mahara and having to use artifacts to demonstrate objectives that I don't quite understand because of vague wording or simple confusion. Many of my artifacts won't have a solid home in the Mahara eportfolio simply because they were not designed to fit a specific place, but in a way that is representative of my life because I am that round peg that keeps being forced into square holes!

I am leaning towards a wikipage portfolio simply because I feel that it will give me the choice and voice that I desperately need and my confidence level is greater with Wikipages than with Mahara.

Re: my portfolio

by [Amy White](http://www.plymouth.edu/webapp/courses2/user/view.php?id=10006&course=16493) - Wednesday, September 25, 2013, 6:17 PM

When I read your post I just had to comment that your word choice is awesome! "...because I am that round peg that keeps being forced into square holes!" What a great way to phrase it!!!  Also, it made me think about why I have become very enamored with the Google complex of apps for e-portfolios.  I think the combination of blogger and sites allows for uniquely shaped pegs to fit very comfortably.  Blogger is so free form that it truly is one size fits all.  Sites becomes the more structured (though easily personalized) side for showcasing.  Thanks for making me smile this afternoon!!!

PS I fully appreciate why your comfort level with WIKI spaces would have you gravitate toward that tool. It is easy to use -- and that comfort may become your x-factor (motivating force) to

Re: my portfolio

by [Tod Guilford](http://www.plymouth.edu/webapp/courses2/user/view.php?id=21140&course=16493) - Thursday, September 26, 2013, 11:14 AM

Hi Betsy

I think that is how a lot of our students feel that they are the square peg in the round hole.  Plus the structure of packaged programs probably scare educators or administrations from adopting eportfolios for their classrooms or districts.  And one of the benefits of doing e-portfolios is supposed to be the flexiblity for students to express themselves and for it to grow with them.

Re: my portfolio

by [Stephanie Haulk](http://www.plymouth.edu/webapp/courses2/user/view.php?id=9130&course=16493) - Sunday, September 29, 2013, 2:36 PM

Betsy,

I too am using another tool other than Mahara. I am going to use a Google Site. I already have one for my classroom, so I feel comfortable with this format. I think that as we go through the process of creating our ePortfolio site and start to collect artifacts for this course, we will have a better idea of where to put certain artifacts and they will find a home!

In thinking about how my students work and think, some of them will like a very structured format and want to be told exactly what goes into their ePortfolio. They won't want much "choice." These are the students like me, the Type A personalities who like things black & white. Then there are those students of mine who love the gray areas! They will need the big incentive of the choice and how to set up their ePortfolio is going to be the most important to them compared to the required pieces that will need to go in it. I think that Google Sites or a Wiki would be good options for both types of students. From the Mahara examples I saw, even I thought it was too structured and "dry" for lack of a better word.

It sounds like you are making decisions to figure out your "choice" and with that will come your "voice!"

Stephanie

Re: my portfolio

by [Diane Breault](http://www.plymouth.edu/webapp/courses2/user/view.php?id=1943&course=16493) - Sunday, September 29, 2013, 5:25 PM

Hi Betsy

I love your idea of using a wiki to create a portfolio! I was thinking along those lines but want to focus on attracting peers so I will use Google.  However, I have used wikispaces and love the ability to set up the environment with a variety of tools for students to use.  The built in discussion posts for each page invites feedback in what I find to be a less formal atmosphere than a blog.  Don't dismay about the storage aspect being limited as there are so many options including Google Drive that will house your treasures and back them up so you'll always have them.  I'm really looking forward to seeing your WikiPortfolio!  Thanks for sharing, Diane

**Re: my portfolio**

**by**[**Ethel Gaides**](http://www.plymouth.edu/webapp/courses2/user/view.php?id=11461&course=16493)**- Monday, September 30, 2013, 9:32 PM**

**Hi Betsy,**

**Go with your idea on the Wikipage portfolio! Edutopia published an article on *ePortfolios in the classroom*.  Wikispaces was on the list .... with "collaborative nature of the tools" highlighted:**

[**http://www.edutopia.org/blog/e-portfolios-in-the-classroom-mary-beth-hertz**](http://www.edutopia.org/blog/e-portfolios-in-the-classroom-mary-beth-hertz)