



## Portfolios

In the business and art worlds, professionals develop collections of their best work to show prospective employers or customers what they are capable of accomplishing. They call these collections *portfolios*. Many students are now being asked to create portfolios of their own.

A student portfolio is a collection of the student's school work that can be used to demonstrate his or her skills and achievements. It may include teachers' evaluations and students own self evaluations. Students participate in selecting the contents of their portfolios, determining for themselves which of their works are of the highest quality. They must think about which of their works they want to share with their family, friends and teachers.

A portfolio may be compiled in a single subject area or may include many different subjects to demonstrate a student's overall achievement. Many New York City schools are now asking students to compile their own portfolios at the intermediate and high school levels but it is possible to do it at an elementary level as well. Portfolios may include student's creative writing, research reports, exams, artwork, science project results or other work samples. Some students develop electronic portfolios with interactive features.

Even if you have not been assigned to make a portfolio in school you may want to do it on your own just so that you have a record of your best work. The next time you create something you are especially proud of, don't throw it away...add it to your portfolio.