



# Choose A Topic Portfolios

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# In the beginning...



K8 school



Wanted to create a portfolio system G/T students in grades 6-8



Interdisciplinary



Build research skills



Opportunities for creativity



FUN!

# The Result



10 assignments spread over three years



Some assignments were repeatable



Each student chose a topic they wanted to dig into

Teacher guidance needed to help students choose a topic that was not too broad or too restrictive.  
😊

# The assignments

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ABC Book of vocabulary/concepts related to topic

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Read & Review a book involving the chosen topic

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Careers in (topic)

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Current Event involving topic (1X year)

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Create/Invent for (topic)

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Famous person involved in (topic; 2X over 3 years)

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Future possibilities in (topic)

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Government involvement in (topic)

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History of (topic)

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Math & (topic)


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# The assignments by suggested grade level

6<sup>th</sup> Grade:  
ABC Book of vocabulary/concepts related to topic  
Current Event involving topic (1X year)  
History of (topic)  
Famous person involved in (topic; 2X over 3 years)

7<sup>th</sup> Grade:  
Read & Review a book involving the chosen topic  
Current Event involving topic (1X year)  
Math & (topic)  
Government involvement in (topic)


8<sup>th</sup> Grade:  
Careers in (topic)  
Current Event involving topic (1X year)  
Famous person involved in (topic; 2X over 3 years)  
Create/Invent for (topic)  
Future possibilities in (topic)



Read/review a book involving (topic) Portfolio Assignment:

Directions:

Find a fiction book that involves your topic. For example, if your topic was soccer, you could read Tangerine by Edward Bloor or The Million Dollar Kick by Dan Gutman. After reading your book, do the following:

- Write a brief summary of the book. Don't give away the ending!
  - Explain what you like/dislike about the book.
  - Answer the following questions:
    - How important was (topic) to the plot of the book? Could (topic) have been left out without hurting the storyline?
    - Were there any inaccuracies about (topic) in the book? If so, what were they and how could they be corrected?
    - Could reading this book inspire someone to take an interest in (topic)?
    - Was prior knowledge of (topic) necessary to help in understanding this book? If so, what knowledge was needed?
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Careers in (topic) Portfolio Assignment:

Directions:

No matter what your portfolio topic, someone has a career involving it! Find information about at least two career possibilities that involve your topic. Answer the following questions about each career:

1. What does this career involve (job duties)?
2. What education is needed?
3. What other skills are needed for this career?
4. How do you get started in this career?
5. What sort of job environment does a person in this career work in? (Outside? In an office? Travelling?)
6. What is the pay scale for this career?
7. Is this career something you would be interested in? Why or why not?

After researching each career and answering the questions above, compare the careers you have researched. What differences do you see between each career? Is one more closely tied to your topic to the other? Explain how?

You need a minimum of three references for this portfolio assignment. There is no limit on the number of references that may be a web site for this assignment, but make sure that all your information comes from reputable sources.

Note: One good resource for this assignment is the Occupational Outlook Handbook, which can be accessed on-line at <http://www.bls.gov/oco/> .

Other possible sources include professional organizations, and government agencies.

Now at  [www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh)

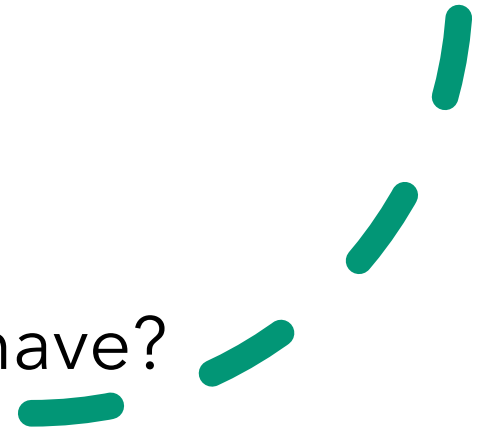
⊕ Careers in ... Assignment:

Category	Percentage	4	3	2	1
Required information included	50%	All questions about the chosen careers are answered clearly and completely. Careers are compared and comparison questions are fully answered.	Most questions about the chosen careers are answered clearly and completely. Careers are compared and comparison questions are answered.	Some questions about the chosen careers are answered clearly and completely. Careers are compared and comparison questions are compared, but not well.	Many questions are left unanswered or are answered in a confusing manner or no comparison has been done between the careers.
Appropriate references	25%	At least three references are cited, <u>All</u> references are reputable sources.	At least two references are cited are from a reputable source.	At least one reference is cited and from a reputable source.	No references cited or used within this assignment.
Mechanics	15%	Grammar, spelling, & punctuation excellent (0-1 errors)	Grammar, spelling, & punctuation very good (2-3 errors)	Grammar, spelling & punctuation need attention (4-5 errors)	Grammar, spelling & punctuation poor (6+ errors)
Quality product	10%	Finished product is neat, and attractive. Information is presented in an interesting manner.	Finished product is neat or attractive. Information is presented in a somewhat interesting manner.	Finished product is neat or attractive. Information is presented in a manner that does not cause reader/viewer interest.	Finished product is not neat or attractive. Product was apparently done at the last minute.



# Format?

- Lots of possibilities!
  - Traditional paper
    - Essay/research paper
    - Informational brochure or book(let)
    - Poetry
  - PowerPoint or similar presentation
  - Podcast or Video
  - Web page or web site
  - Arts-based formats
    - Board game
    - Bulletin Board
    - Comic book
  - What other ideas do you have?



# Student Input!

- Do students have ideas for additional projects they would like to do and include in their portfolio? Co-create directions and the rubric!



A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a large green circle containing the text 'Do it & Forget it? Nope!'. Surrounding this circle are various teal and green shapes, including a teal circle at the top left, a teal triangle at the top right, a teal square at the bottom left, and a teal circle at the bottom center with several teal dashes above it.

**Do it &  
Forget it?  
Nope!**

- Allow students to go back to earlier assignments and revise their work
  - Growth focused
  - Incorporate new knowledge and understanding



# Thoughts or Questions?

- How could you adapt this idea for your context?
- What additional assignments could be added?
- Any other thoughts or questions?