

Dear reader,

I made this portfolio so you can learn about who I am outside of school and read what I learn in it. I want this portfolio to show not only my work but how I learn to work with other people and just do my work. I can say one of the most important things I learned while doing all of these projects is to grow up. When I became a freshman, the teachers stopped treating us like 5th graders and we finally had to be on our own. Teach ourselves and learn that we have to be independent but also steered in the right direction once in awhile. While reading my portfolio you can see my progress, growth as a writer, and also growth as a new tech student.

There's a reason for everything I put in my freshman portfolio. Every artifact, essay, and pieces of information represents either a standard (showing that I learned what the state wanted me to) or just something that is important to me. For example, something that I wanted everyone who reads my portfolio to do is learn something new about me and one of the things I love is art. While looking through my personal webpage, I'll show you my favorite artist, pieces of art, and even my own work.

During my first year at Calumet, I learned a lot about myself as a student. The work I got back made me see what I needed to work on and my strengths. Since we did some many projects and assignments in every class, I got to see growth in Science, Business Math, P.E, Algebra 1, and of course English/World History. Since I am amazing with Math and pretty good with science, the main class I was worried about this year was English/World History. When it comes to writing, I always feel like I can always improve so besides the tips I got from my teacher, I also used a website called criterion to show me, not only the flaws in my writing, but my strengths.

Something that every student has experienced at this school is doing projects that interest us and getting a good grade because the research was something we wanted to learn about. Also, learning about things that make us bored all class hour and for two or three weeks, but as a 21st century learners I know that I have to master everything I study even though it's not my favorite subject. Some of the projects that interested me are the children's book because it involved drawing and the industrial revolution project. I was really proud of how hard I tried on these projects.

While I got fairly good grades on most of my projects, one of my weaknesses that I discovered later on in the year was not being a strong enough group member. It really stood out when two of my group members were not experts on our topic and me and the group leader believed them when they said they did enough research. To make my experience clearer to you, imagine you are working with a three person group and your subject is oranges. You talk about how oranges are grown and what they look like, and your other group member talks about the basic details of the fruit and where their grown. Your last group member just simply stands in front of the class and shows an orange. The reason this is so important is because in some of my classes, the collaboration and communication point are low. Even though there is nothing I could do to change their grade or amount of research, I found out that it is

important to make the whole group study more even if it involves you making them stay after school or just bugging them a lot.

To me, this year is the year when I figured out what I what to do and be when I graduate. Even though I'm still deciding, I am happy that I narrowed it down. Looking twenty years from now I can't tell if I'm going to be happy being an anesthesiologist even though I couldn't imagine anything better than helping people. Listening to people wake up and say that they hate their job makes me ask questions, but knowing that you helped someone through one of the toughest, scariest moments in their life has to be a rewarding feeling that I know I what to experience.

I want my freshman portfolio to speak to people, tell them about me, and give them a reason not to believe that I wake up at 5:30 am to go to school and do nothing. I even want this portfolio to show that I have learned something throughout all of my grades levels. I hope by reading this portfolio, it clarifies a big part of my life along with my long and short term goals, strength, flaws, weaknesses, what I've perfected, and I've accomplished that I couldn't with my other previous projects. I don't believe that by reading this portfolio you will know everything about me, but I strongly believe that it will show that I have tried to pass expectations for a freshman student at Calumet High School. I hope you appreciate the time I took to create this portfolio and most importantly enjoy reading it!

Sincerely,

Zakiyyah Muhammad