

Quick Portfolio Projects Student Portfolios K-6

Question: What *one* project combines authentic assessment, self-evaluation, student engagement, parent involvement, blended learning, language development, cross-curricular connections, *and* closure for a year's worth of activities?

Answer: publishing student portfolios.

A student portfolio of the year's "best efforts" offers an exciting way to see and share student progress. Creating a binder or book of students' own favorite work lets them reflect on the progress they've made.

Why? Authentic Assessment!

According to the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Research [archives](#), "*Portfolios [are] an effective way to get [students] to take a second look and think about how they could improve future work, ... a clear departure from the old write, hand in, and forget mentality.*"

How? Review, Reflect, Share!

Save exemplary student work, especially culminating projects—including drafts and outlines—in one folder or binder per student. Pair students up to review one another's work and provide positive comments on the strengths and growth they see. Distribute page 2. Have partners fill out the form as they review a single favorite piece in one another's portfolio. Then scan and upload the student work, and publish digitally to send home to parents.

Other Ways to Wrap Up the Year

- **Share Rave Reviews**

Have students comment on each sample work as though it were a favorite book or movie. Use the prompts in [5-Star Reviews StorySpark](#).

- **Borrow from the Art World**

According to the U.S. DOE, the practice of portfolio evaluation borrows from studio art critique. Use the questions in the [Photo Album](#) or [Art Portfolio Story Sparks](#).

- **Showcase Vocabulary with an A B C**

For a fun twist on a published portfolio, students can arrange 26 images according to a describing word with each letter of the alphabet. Use the [Thematic Alphabet StorySpark](#).

Wrap-Up Reminder

Celebrate and share a year's worth of achievement with a publishing party! Be mindful of printing turn around times to be sure books are in hand for the year-end wrap!



TikaTok Tip

Pass the Portfolio You can publish student portfolios as books or ebooks at [TikaTok.com](#), and with one click, share the work with parents. [See how.](#)

Peer Review Worksheet

- I put a comment on the part I like best.
- I explained my comments clearly.

Some questions I have for the author are:

The strongest part of this portfolio is:

One piece that shows growth or progress is:



Author: _____

Reviewed By: _____