Eportfolio Pre-Writing

<u>Background</u>

After introducing students to Wix and Weebly, I introduced students to the concept of the eportfolio using a reading from Nedra Reynolds and Rich Rice's guide Portfolio Teaching: A Guide for Instructors (2006). Through that reading, students become familiar with digital arrangement via navigation schemes and visual metaphors (p. 6-7). And to reinforce those concepts, I provided students sample portfolios showcased in FSU's annual Digital Symposium including those from the 4th Symposium and the 5th Symposium. While looking at these portfolios, I asked students to observe how those who had made the eportfolios included in the Digital Symposium used navigation schemes, visual metaphors, and pages layouts to communicate representations of themselves and their work. Then, based on those observations, I asked students to create web sequence diagrams: visual maps of their eportfolios that include connections among the portfolio's pages via links and sketches of layouts.

After collecting their web sequence diagrams, I responded to their initial ideas by pointing to a strength of their design and posing a question. Often, my questions specifically addressed the issue of arrangement. For example, where students initially designed their portfolios along the chronology of the course, I asked them to consider alternative arrangements, e.g. a topical arrangement emphasizing key findings. After responding to their web sequence diagrams, I provided them with my feedback, asked students to respond to my question, and asked them to revise their diagrams where necessary. After that revision, I collected their diagrams again, responded to them again, and redistributed them again. Over the course of the semester and as students added to their portfolios, we exchanged ideas in this way three times. After the third round of response, I redistributed their web diagrams to use as a plan for finalizing their eportfolios.

<u>Pre-Writing Directions</u>

1. Sketch the layout of your eportfolio on a piece of paper. Be sure to include the following things:
   a. Color scheme
   b. Background color/images
   c. Font type
   d. Placement of menu
   e. Placement of site title
   f. Alignment and placement of text and textboxes
   g. Alignment and placement of other media elements: images, slideshows, videos, etc.
2. Diagram the arrangement of your eportfolio on a piece of paper. Be sure to include the following things.
   a. Represent each page in your eportfolio. You may create a page for each project or combine projects on a single page based on a similar theme, question, or methodology.
   b. Represent how these pages will link to one another. As we have read, the navigation schemes created through these links can help you and your readers find connections within your collected research.