

Presenting WatCV in class

In-class Introduction

The PowerPoint slidedeck, "[The WatCV Assignment: Showcasing your professional skills](#)," explains the project rationale to students, highlighting both the importance of professional skills and the articulation of these skills from an employer's perspective. Ten professional skills are identified as being particularly desirable. WatCV is presented as an ePortfolio assignment in which students showcase the professional skills developed throughout your course. A link to an example ePortfolio is provided for review, followed by an explanation of what students need to do to complete the assignment, and the benefits of completion.

If time allows, you may wish to have your students write their first reflection in class following the introduction. Minimally, it would benefit students for you to go through the WatCV Student Resources on the [CTE website](#) (includes instructions for reflections and ePortfolio, reflection template, student models, and marking rubric) to clarify any points of confusion.

Please make the following announcement to your students in class, so that they are aware of what support is available as they are completing their first assignment:

Announcement

This week you've been asked to reflect on a time you used a professional skill in the past and to create a landing page for your ePortfolio to showcase this reflection. If you're having some trouble with the assignment, the Writing Centre and the Centre for Career Action on campus can help you:

You can see the folks at the [Writing Centre](#) to help you organize your thoughts and ideas, and communicate your ideas with clarity. The Centre's digital media experts will also be able to help you with ePortfolio issues, including troubleshooting, multimedia design choices, layout and navigation, or content. [Book your appointment](#) today! When you're booking your appointment, click on "WatCV" under UG Project/Assignment Type.

If you're having trouble recognizing your professional skills, the [Centre for Career Action](#) offers a workshop ("[It's All About Your Skills](#)") that will help you identify and articulate your skills.

Note: you can also post this announcement to your LEARN site



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Highlighting WatCV features to students

The goal of the **WatCV ePortfolio** is to help students [bridge the 'articulation of skills' gap](#), and does so by having students follow a specific framework to create and structure the ePortfolio. The WatCV ePortfolio focuses on helping students identify, articulate, and persuasively demonstrate the implicit, transferable, professional skills and competencies that they develop within a course context when they complete course activities and assignments. (NOTE: instructors must draw students' attention to these skills by explicitly stating where, when and how these skills are deployed while completing course assignments). The STAR format (Situation/Task, Action, Result) is used to guide the students through the process of articulating these skills and prepares them for a Behavior Based Interview (BBI) question that asks the interviewee to "Tell me about a time when you..." The STAR reflection is combined with digital evidence of a particular professional skill and associated behavior that the student deployed to complete a course assignment.

The WatCV ePortfolio presentation, then, highlights the transferable skills or competencies the student has developed, through a reflection that articulates how the student deployed particular skills and associated behaviours to address a particular situation. A digital artifact provides evidence of the actions the student undertook, enhancing the reflection and accompanying the STAR reflection in the ePortfolio.

Notice the structure of Danielle's WatCV ePortfolio below

1. **On the landing page, Danielle highlights the skills she has - I make connections; I solve problems.**

In contrast to a WatCV ePortfolio, students often use ePortfolios to showcase the work they have done in the past, rather than the skills they have developed and can use in the future in a different context. The WatCV ePortfolio changes the focus of the presentation so that the transferable skills are the focus of the ePortfolio rather than products of learning. This structure is important because employers and graduate schools are interested in how students can transfer professional skills they have learned in one situation and apply it to a different and new situation. Danielle may choose to highlight different skills for a different audience in a different presentation.

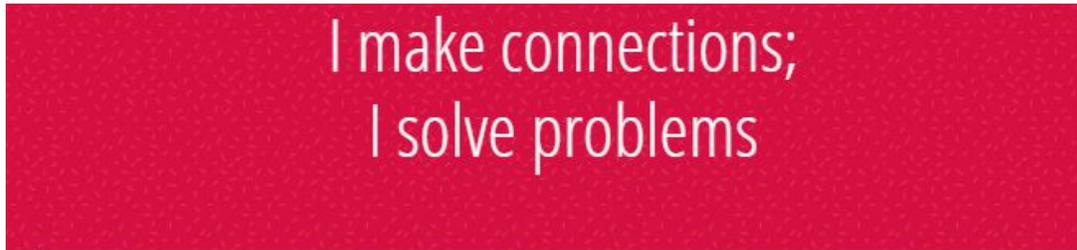
2. Danielle then focuses on three assignments and highlights, for each assignment, **one particular skill and associated behaviours she deployed** to help complete a particular assignment. For example, her reflection on Assignment 1 focuses on the skill – teamwork.

On her skills reflection page for each assignment, she uses the STAR format to discuss one particular skill and associated behaviour she used to complete the assignment or activity. She may have used a number of specific skills to complete the assignment, but she will focus on only one of them so that she can focus attention on that skill, **describing to the audience the context** in which the skill was deployed, and devoting most of the response to vividly articulating the **actions she took** to complete the activity. She completes the reflection by



describing the results, what she learned from the experience, and **how** she might call upon this skill and associated behaviour to address a situation or task in a different situation.

The digital artifact that accompanies the reflection is **evidence of an action she took** to resolve the situation or task, for example, taking her team through a brainstorming activity using post-it notes to cluster similar responses from her team.



Skill Spotlight

<p>Assignment 1: Teamwork</p> <p><small>Skill Spotlight textbox for Assignment 1</small></p>	<p>Skill - Assignment 2</p> <p><small>Skill Spotlight textbox for Assignment 2</small></p>	<p>Skill - Assignment 3</p> <p><small>Skill Spotlight textbox for Assignment 3</small></p>
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Skills Reflections

Assignment 1 Reflection



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My students tell me they already have an ePortfolio and want to use that instead of the WatCV format. What do I tell them?

ePortfolios can be used for many purposes including

- showcasing achievements to next-stage stakeholders such as employers and graduate school
- documenting one's own process of learning
- demonstrating goal setting, planning and showing evidence of personal growth and development



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- integrating learning beyond the boundaries of a course by reflecting on and documenting connections across assignments, courses, and terms, as well as across curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular learning environments.

Because there are different purposes for creating ePortfolios, and different audiences for which the ePortfolio is created, the structure of ePortfolios may vary from course to course.



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