

SJS 215: EMPOWER

Diversity Portfolio – Final Assignment Details

I structured the details for this assignment in a “question and answer” format to hopefully increase clarity and simplify the process. However, if you have questions about anything, please feel free to email Hailee at gibbonhm@MiamiOH.edu.

What is a portfolio?

A portfolio is an edited collection intended to showcase work, skills, and competencies. Portfolios can be made for artists, music, teaching, business, and many other disciplines.

Why are we creating a portfolio focused on diversity?

Diversity is a complex reality, reflecting issues of difference and equity, which call on people to develop several key skills, including critical self-reflection, relationship building, collaboration, and the ability to effectively read and respond to situations of difference.

The Diversity Portfolio will require students to submit key artifacts that highlight their engagement, learning, and teaching in diverse situations and with diverse people each year. It will also require students to complete a reflective analysis that focuses on how these key experiences have impacted their understanding of diversity and their growth in their ability and confidence to function effectively in situations of cultural diversity.

In order to begin this process (which is often a lifetime journey for many people), students were asked to complete five journal entries over the course of EMPOWER. The purpose of these journal entries was to practice and strengthen our ability to critically self-reflect. The only access we have to understanding and advocating for others is through the self, and if this self is an unexamined self, then it is far more likely to alienate than it is to build relationships across difference. Critical self-reflection is the process of exploring and understanding one’s self as a complex cultural being influenced by various people, places, traditions, and rituals.

What is the purpose of the Diversity Portfolio?

The final project for EMPOWER, the Diversity Portfolio, asks you to submit key artifacts that highlight your engagement, learning, and teaching in diverse situations and with diverse people.

What do I specifically need to do for the SJS 215: EMPOWER Diversity Portfolio?

The Diversity Portfolio will essentially be a collection of reflections and critical self-examinations that communicate to others:

- How you understand your self in the context of diversity.
- How your experiences have defined and shaped your understanding of self and others.
 - Include experiences in EMPOWER, service experiences, as well as other meaningful experiences (e.g., trips to other countries, other courses, etc.)
- How you have an increased understanding of diversity, privilege, oppression, and social justice.
- How you are progressing toward an increasing understanding of diversity and social justice.

- What actions you plan to take or are taking to “live diversity” and enact social justice values? How have you been empowered? How might you empower others?

You do not need to include just anything and everything – you want to highlight how you have a better understanding of yourself and others and how that affects how you live your life – both in every day interactions and on a wider scale.

We encourage you to write new material as well as synthesize and edit your writing from your journal entries to create part of your portfolio. Please do not just submit your journals “as is” – we want to see integration in how your thinking has changed and developed over the course of the semester.

What are some things I could possibly submit?

You can be as creative as you like in the process of putting together your diversity portfolio. You may submit:

- Integrations of Your EMPOWER Journals
- Autobiographical Statements
- Reflections on the Urban Plunge and other Service Experiences
- Reflections on Readings and Class Discussions
 - For example, if the reading Helping Fixing Serving (or another one) was particularly meaningful to you, you could write a reflection about it and/or include a copy in your portfolio.
- Photographs
- Video
- Podcasts
- Poetry
- Presentations

You may also submit documents from our class and your reflections about them, such as:

- Social Group Membership Profile
- Identity Wheel
- Class Background Inventory
- Identity Collage
- Response to “Cycle of Socialization” and “Cycle of Liberation”

I also included some activities we did not do in class but might be able to get prompt some additional thought such as:

- Where I’m From Poems
- Mosaic of Identity
- Privilege and Disadvantage Inventory

You can include any of these things or other artifacts – essentially anything is possible since it is your portfolio. If you are unsure, just ask by emailing me at gibbonhm@MiamiOH.edu.

How do I turn my Diversity Portfolio in?

A hard copy version is ideal – you can place things in a binder, folder, scrapbook, etc. or upload materials on an USB or a CD. You can submit it Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 5 PM in McGuffey 124. If you must send an electronic copy, please email it to me at gibbonhm@MiamiOH.edu. Please make sure your name is clearly marked on materials.