Module 1: The Journey of Self-Discovery-Introduction to the Digital Portfolio
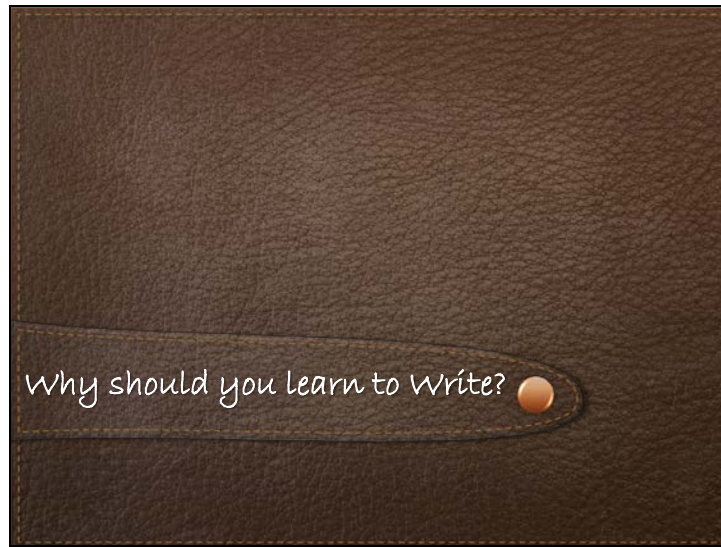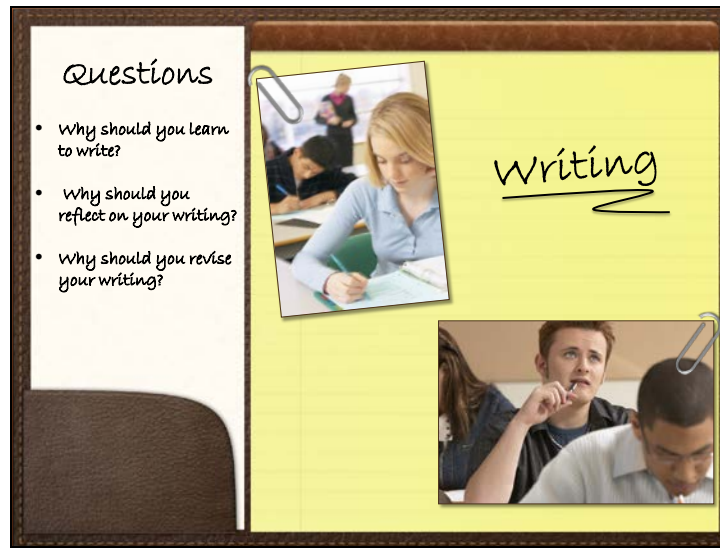## Topic 1 Content: Why Should You Learn To Write? Presentation Notes
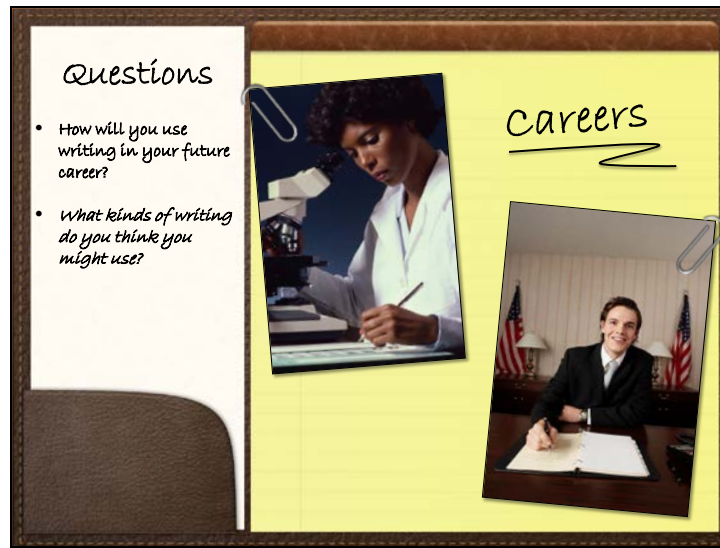
Introduction

It is time to focus on the digital portfolio. Writing is important as it will one day help you find a career and then help you progress in that career. Today's technology is here to help you achieve your goals. The first step toward reaching these goals is developing a digital portfolio that will serve as a showcase for your work. As you view this presentation you will learn why writing and building a solid portfolio will help you become a more successful twenty-first century learner.

Writing

"Why should you learn to write?" Teachers know that all students ask this question a million times over. Teachers also know that what you learn must be relevant to where you see yourself in the future. So, why write? Why reflect on that writing? Why revise what you write? Why learn how to prepare writing for public viewing?

Careers

You will not be able to escape the need to write no matter what career path you may choose. Can you think of ways that you will write in your chosen career? Well, here are a few ideas: managers write evaluations of their employees; business owners write proposals to obtain loans and ads to gain business; scientists and mathematicians write for professional journals to explain their latest discoveries. The list goes on and on.

As you can see, writing is very important to your future employers. Writing is a way of conveying ideas. You will write through email, documents and reports daily in your careers. Writing is so important that researchers and educators have identified specific literacies that are necessary to all potential employers in the twenty-first century job market. The ability to communicate effectively and clearly is at the top of this list. You could say that communication is "key."
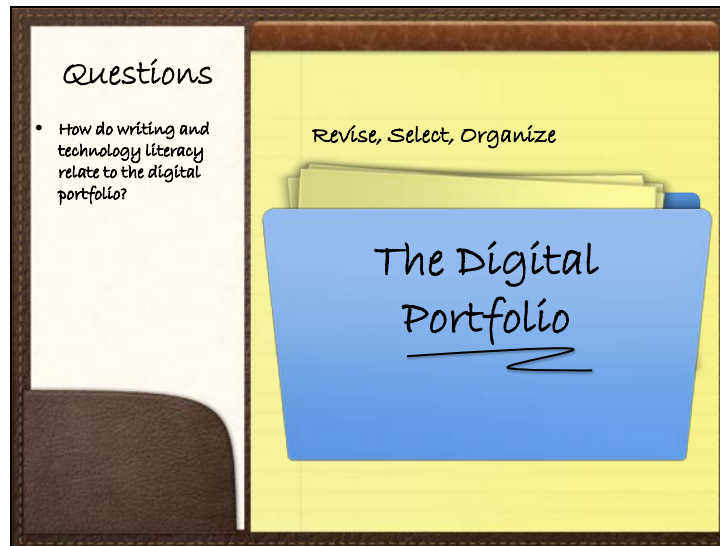
Technology

Technology literacy skills are just as important as strong communication skills. As a potential employee, you must be able to translate hand-written work into our technology-based world. Technology affords you great opportunities to express yourself in a variety of formats using a myriad of multimedia tools. It will be your job to effectively assess the pros and cons of each tool for the job at hand. A digital portfolio will provide you with the opportunity to write, reflect, edit, revise, and publish as a twenty-first century student writer. In this process you will also gain experience collaborating with others. A key step is to share your writing with others and receive peer review and critique. In this process it is important to exercise respect for others' differences, weaknesses and strengths. You will also learn, with experience, to be flexible and willing to accept the help your classmates offer.

Technological literacy demonstrates an understanding of what technology is available to serve your purpose, how it works, and how it can be used to efficiently and effectively achieve your goals. This seamless use of real-world tools will allow you to communicate and collaborate with others showing job readiness. But how do you accomplish this seamless use of these tools? You must be able to choose the right instrument for the right job as a writer. Be prepared to use a variety of technology related tools to create a product. Always be ready to explore new capabilities using specialized tools and technology in creating a product for publication and exhibition.

The Digital Portfolio

You are probably wondering how writing and technology literacy relates to the digital portfolio? Maybe you have created paper portfolios before for classes or had a teacher keep a portfolio of your writing throughout the school year for you. Teachers often ask you to print or hand-write your work to submit. This work then gets filed in a folder that acts as your portfolio of what you have accomplished throughout the year. A digital portfolio holds so many more opportunities for you as a writer. First, you have the freedom to choose what products go into the portfolio. You will produce a wide variety of writing such as informal reflections, journal responses, essays, research papers, and poetry. All of these writings are potential candidates for your digital portfolio because they all help to create a picture of you as a writer. Second, you will hone your skills as a collaborator as you work with your peers and your teacher reviewing, revising and selecting the pieces to showcase in the portfolio. Third, you will go beyond the staple and manila folder of the traditional static paper portfolio. You will create a dynamic digital picture of yourself as a person.