MT Engage ePortfolio Template for 2021 Scholarship Application

Each ePortfolio submitted for the MT Engage scholarship should contain four pages: About Me, Career and Education Goals/Plan, Campus and Community Connections, and Work/Academic Showcase. Listed below are the components that should be included on each page. This information can also be found at http://www.mtsu.edu/mtengage/Scholarship.php.

Presentation Name: When you are creating your ePortfolio submission, your presentation name should be formatted as “LastNameFirstName_MTEScholarship.”

Page 1 – About Me

Who am I: Description of Self

Describe yourself so that someone who doesn’t know you gets a good sense of who you are as a person. Include information about your interests, skills, values, and/or personality.

- Who am I? What factors contributed to who I am?
- What are my fundamental attitudes and values? How do I know? Why are those important to me?
- What have I learned about myself thus far?
- What are my goals for my own personal development?
- What are my knowledge, skills, and abilities to date?

Strengths & Weaknesses

- Based on this discussion of who you are as a person, your life experiences, and possibly class activities that have helped you think about your strengths, describe several of your key strengths.
- How can I foster those strengths?
- How do I compensate for my weaknesses or overcome them?
- What are my biggest challenges?

Page 2 – Career and Education Goals/Plan

Career Goals & Plan

- What are my career goals?
- What is my plan for reaching my goals?
- What steps do I need to take to in my junior year and my senior year to reach my career goals? Please be specific.

Educational Goals & Plan

Educational goals for the near future (time at MTSU):

- What are my educational goals for college?
- What skills and resources (i.e. tutoring, job shadowing, or the University Writing Center) will I use to enhance my college success?
Exploring majors:

- What is your major (or what majors are you considering)?
- Focus on your chosen major (or one major you are considering). Why did you (or might you) select it?
- Give examples of the academic skills, strengths, and/or personal qualities you will need in order to be successful in this major. Think about what it will take to meet admission requirements (if applicable), maintain a strong GPA, and complete course requirements in this major.
- Consider your personal characteristics and strengths, as well as the academic skills, strengths, and personal qualities you discussed in your responses to the questions above. Why is this major (or possible major) a good fit for you—or not?

Educational plan:

- What key knowledge, skills, and abilities are necessary to reach your career or professional goals?
- Describe 2-3 ways in which you would like to enhance your college experience.
- Give specific examples of what you would like to do. Your examples should demonstrate why each of the activities you describe would be important to you and should include discussion of the knowledge and/or skills you seek to develop by undertaking the activity. Consider the following: campus activities/organizations, volunteer activities or service learning classes, externships and/or internships, study abroad, summer or part-time employment opportunities, undergraduate research.

Page 3 – Campus and Community Connections

Campus and Community Experiences

In this section, you will reflect on the campus or community experiences that have enhanced your college learning. Such experiences might include undergraduate research, study abroad, service learning, civic engagement, community service or other volunteerism, internships/externships, campus activities, and/or student organizations. This may include your within-the-classroom and beyond-the-classroom activities that are part of MT Engage courses.

1. Describe a campus or community experience. When and where did it occur? Why did the experience take place? Who was involved? What did you do? What did others do?
2. What were the most important things you learned from this experience? In what ways did you increase your knowledge of yourself as a person, a learner, and aspiring professional and/or a citizen?
3. Why is what you learned in this experience significant or important to you?
4. How does what you learned from this experience relate to your educational and career goals or your discipline? How does it relate to other courses you are taking or have taken?
5. How will this experience affect your future learning? How will what you learned be helpful in future classes or in future situations?

Address one of the three areas below: Campus Involvement or Academic Service Learning or Civic Engagement Activities.

Campus Involvement
Identify and describe a campus activity (must be different from that described under “Campus and Community Experiences”) that you have been involved with as a university student. Such experiences might include student organizations, Greek life, honor societies, or other campus activities not part of a course.

- Discuss a part of your experience that changed how you view or connect with others who are different from you.
- Did you use anything you learned in your coursework you’ve taken? If so, describe an example.
- Can you think of an experience that changed how you think about your own approach to leadership?
- How has your campus involvement influenced your professional development?

Academic Service Learning

Identify and describe a social issue that is of interest to you and that has been addressed in one or more of your university courses; outline root causes, those groups directly or indirectly impacted, and its potential solutions. Use at least one example from your experiences and study to illustrate your thinking in detail.

- Based on your experience and study on this issue, identify and describe the combination of resources, skills, knowledge, and people you believe are necessary to: (a) address the underlying causes of the problem; or (b) meet the needs of those affected by the issue.
- In thinking further about the social issue you identified above, discuss how your academic work to date (e.g., classes, projects, etc.) is aiding you to develop the necessary knowledge and skills to address this social issue in ways that foster inclusiveness, fairness, and active participation among community members. Make sure to include at least one example from your experience and study that supports your view.
- Lastly, based on your courses thus far, describe any future plans you have to stay engaged with this issue or a related social issue following this semester. For example, how has your experience with this issue changed your thinking about the type of degree or the major you will pursue? Did your experience move you to become an advocate for or against the issue? Make sure your response not only describes your answer but helps the reader understand reasons behind your thinking.

Civic Engagement Activities (e.g., volunteering or community service, political involvement, advocating for social change, informal community building)

Identify and describe a social issue that is: of interest to you AND that you explored through a civic engagement activity, program, or experience that you participated in as a student here.

- Based on your experience with this issue outside of class, identify and describe the combination of resources, skills, knowledge, and people you believe necessary to meet the needs of those affected by the issue.
- Address the underlying causes of the problem or outline the root causes of the issue, those groups directly and indirectly impacted, and potential solutions you see to this problem. Use at least one example from your experience and study to illustrate your thinking in detail.
- In thinking further about the social issue you identified above, discuss how your college experiences outside of class are aiding you to develop the knowledge and skills needed to address this issue in ways that foster inclusiveness, fairness, and active participation among community members. Make sure to include at least one detailed example from your experience that supports your view.
- Lastly, based on your beyond-the-classroom experiences at MTSU, describe any future plans you have to stay engaged with this issue or a related social issue after this semester. For example, has your experience changed your thinking about the type of degree or the major you wish to pursue? Did your
experience move you to become an advocate for or against this issue? Make sure your response not only describes your answer but helps the reader understand the reasons behind your thinking.

Page 4 – Work/Academic Showcase

In this section, you will include artifacts (pieces of work) that represent your key learning experiences in MT Engage courses and beyond. You should justify the inclusion of any artifact in this section by addressing the prompts below. This section should have at least **4 artifacts with evidence** with each entry consisting of the following information:

1. **Artifact/Work Example**: Attach (or link) a course assignment, paper, project, creative piece, etc. that you judge to be strong evidence of your learning. Be sure that you include something you are proud of and want others to view as a representation of your best work.
2. **Description**: Describe the type of assignment and provide a brief synopsis of the artifact.
3. **Knowledge/Skills/Abilities Gained**: What skills, knowledge, or abilities from general education courses were gained or demonstrated through this assignment or experience? If applicable, what skills, knowledge, or abilities from courses in your major were gained or demonstrated through this assignment or experience? How might such skills, knowledge, or abilities affect you or be useful to you in the future?
4. **Integration**: How does this assignment/experience relate to other experiences you have had in other classes in your major? In other classes in general? To other experiences you have had outside the classroom?
5. **Lessons Learned**: What did you take away from this key learning experience? Why is this important? What did you learn about yourself during this time

Select one additional reflection question below and answer it for each artifact.

6. **Impact**: Describe how the assignment/experience affected other groups, organizations, or your own learning.
7. **Importance**: What makes this experience/artifact a key learning experience? Why is what you learned in the course significant or important to you? How does this learning contribute to your educational and career goals?