Sample Portfolio Products with Annotations

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Preface

This compilation of annotated photographs is intended to serve as a guide for educators and parents to guide student portfolio product development. Prompting through questioning or placemats are often effective means of helping students to think and create their own unique products. We strongly encourage work that is genuinely done by the students themselves with prompting and support.
Preface

Descriptors in bold print are the *Texas Student Portfolio Profile Descriptors* developed by Evelyn Hiatt and Judith Martin. Hiatt and Martin cite numerous scholars of gifted education in their document. Each descriptor is associated with behaviors associated with gifted students and evidence of behaviors manifested in student products.
Preface

• Important considerations follow.
• Products should reflect original ideas and provide educators with a sense of a student’s thought process. Emphasis is not on “flashy” products without substance.
• Special attention should be paid to students from low socioeconomic status who may not have access to a wealth of materials. Evidence of their giftedness may be manifested in other ways with the help of trained educators. More information on gifted students from poverty may be found at www.gtequity.org.
Elementary Portfolio Item

This kindergarten project shows **resourceful/clever use of materials**. Evidence includes the student’s use of cotton as clouds and twisted tissue paper on the volcano.
Elementary Portfolio Item

This kindergarten product shows the student’s creativity and resourceful/clever use of materials. The student used chenille stems to construct a dinosaur with correct proportion and symmetry.
This page in a story book shows **high interest and perseverance**. Evidence includes the amount of time and energy invested by a kindergarten child in meticulously creating the flowers using small pieces of chenille.
Elementary Portfolio Item

This kindergarten project shows resourceful/clever use of materials. Evidence includes the use of leaves and acorns to illustrate fall characteristics. This product is also organized for effective communication through the graphic organizer and parallel between the tree and the turkey.
Elementary Portfolio Item

This kindergarten product shows evidence of support of research as the student has emulated the work of Claude Monet and mentioned “a famous artist.” The item is also organized for effective communication. Evidence includes the student’s explanation of his/her vision and construction of a mirror.

When I look at myself in the mirror, I see an artist. When I grow up I am going to be a famous artist. For now I practice by copying the work of great artist in my own way.

I hope you enjoy it.
Elementary Portfolio Item

This kindergarten product is an interest profile in which the student portrays his enthusiastic persona and **evidence of high interest** through art and writing. Inventive spelling is evidence of a genuine and age-appropriate student-made product. This product shows **complex/intricate presentation of ideas** in his detailed drawings (e.g., audience at wrestling match and books on shelf) and appropriate use of angles/perspective. This product is also **organized to communicate effectively** and demonstrates **in-depth understanding of ideas**.
This kindergarten product shows unusual presentation of ideas and work advanced beyond age or grade level. Evidence includes the uniqueness of the mask and snake and their detailed construction. The student also demonstrates resourceful/clever use of materials (e.g., bottle caps, tape roll, cork, etc.). Task commitment indicates high interest and perseverance.
Elementary Portfolio Item

This product is an example of a placemat activity. The 2nd grade student looks at a broom from multiple perspectives and envisions a sign, a tree with a nest, and a scarecrow. The student shows

**resourceful/clever use of materials, complex/intricate presentation of an idea, and unusual presentation of an idea.** Evidence includes the intricate construction of the eggs in the nest and originality of ideas. In addition, this product is **organized to communicate effectively.**
Elementary Portfolio Item

This 3rd grade product, the traveling trampoline, shows resourceful/clever use of materials and complex/intricate presentation of an idea as the student constructed it using a foam plate, wooden dowels, and chenille stems and wrote the words in a circular pattern. The story written on the inside shows evidence of support of research through mention of various monuments and places. Because this product may be considered highly original, it contains unusual presentation of an idea; it is also organized to communicate effectively.
Elementary Portfolio Item

This fourth grade project, a mandala, is a sophisticated example of an interest profile. Detailed drawings and writing reflect in-depth understanding of ideas. The product is organized to communicate effectively as evidenced by logical progression of thoughts in writing.

This product could conceivably be construed as work advanced beyond age or grade level when compared with work of other age peers. Highly detailed drawings show complex/intricate presentation of ideas.
Elementary Portfolio Item

This fourth grade product illustrates a unique sense of voice and empathy through writing. It is organized to communicate effectively. The drawing of the Iwo Jima monument shows evidence of support of research. 
In this fifth grade product, the student analyzes the war with Iraq through multiple perspectives. S/he views the situation through the eyes of a five year old child, Iraqi President, and as a U. S. soldier. Writing shows in-depth understanding of a problem through the diversity of perspectives and logical progression of thoughts. It also shows evidence of support of research and is organized to communicate effectively.
This fifth grade drawing with an original story shows work advanced beyond age or grade level as it appears that the drawing may have been done by an older student. It also shows complex, intricate presentation of an idea through the detail in the drawing.

The story shows an in-depth understanding of an idea as the student explains the symbolic nature of the house. It is organized to communicate effectively through use of effective voice and imagery and shows evidence of high interest.
Secondary Portfolio Item

This sixth grade piece of art shows unusual presentation of idea, work advanced beyond age or grade level, complex or intricate presentation of an idea, in-depth understanding, resourceful, clever use of materials, evidence of support of research, is organized to communicate effectively, and shows evidence of high interest and perseverance. The unique use of color and the construction of the drawing are evidence of these descriptors. The artist’s form and medium effectively communicate mood and meaning.

The student’s explanation of his/her work includes a reference to Picasso’s use of blue to emphasize emotion, indicating evidence of research.
This seventh grade work of art shows unusual presentation of an idea through its unique design. In addition, it shows evidence of high interest and perseverance as well as complex or intricate presentation of an idea through its elaborate detail.
Secondary Portfolio Item

This seventh grade paper maché model of the heart shows complex, intricate presentation of an idea through the detailed construction of the valves. It also shows resourceful, clever use of materials and evidence of support of research as evidenced in the chambers and valves of the heart and the color contrast indicating oxygen in blood flow. The product is organized to communicate effectively and shows in-depth understanding of an idea. This product includes a series of photographs showing phases of construction (see right).
This seventh grade product shows **resourceful, clever use** of language through dialogue. The student’s writing style emphasizes the progression of action in the story. The story **shows in-depth understanding of an idea** and is **organized to communicate effectively**. In addition, it shows **evidence of high interest and perseverance** (six and a half pages in length). The story shows **unusual presentation of idea** through creativity and unique use of language.
Insight on Portfolio Product Development

- Gifted students are often passionate about a particular topic or area of interest.
- Interest is a good starting point for portfolio development.
- Students benefit from prompting and encouragement from educators and parents during the portfolio development process. Products showcased in this presentation are evidence of the many gifts and talents of students in our district.