

*This excerpt from a final reflection essay was written by a student in a graduate course in Literacy Studies, EDR 605, taught by Professor Limor Pinhasi-Vittorio. It accompanied a course portfolio in which students assembled various pieces of writing they had been working on throughout the semester.*

I want to start by sharing the difficulty that I had while putting together this portfolio. I found the creation of this portfolio complicated because I needed to choose by myself what to include. I did a lot of writings, all of them followed by several drafts throughout the semester, but at the time that I needed to pick and choose I freaked out. I wanted to include the best of my writing. I also have to confess that it was my first time doing a portfolio. Still, it was great to go back to what I was doing for the past four months, and to revise them. I am also happy that I had the opportunity to do my own selection of what I wanted to include in the portfolio. This chance allowed me to use my own judgment and to discard what I thought was not important to show.

In reflecting about my writing this semester for inclusion in the portfolio, I discovered how much I grew. I have to applaud myself and to thank Prof. Pinhasi-Vittorio as well as the community of writers in this course. My writing grew enormously, as well as my confidence and self-esteem. I had the opportunity to write and to review other student's writing as well. At the beginning of the semester I was scared and anxious, but I overcame these feelings. I learned various strategies and techniques in order for me to be a better writer, and more important, to be proud and comfortable when I write. I definitely think I moved a long way from feeling worthless to being proud of my writing. I gained confidence by understanding that comments and suggestions are needed in order to improve anybody's writing. Furthermore, I am aware of how it is important not to lose my voice when I write. I learned to acknowledge that I have a voice in my writing. In addition, I educated myself to think that rejections are acceptable, and that I am the only one with the power and authority to accept or decline them. As a result, I accomplished valuing the ownership of my writing.