**Using e-portfolios to demonstrate learner progress**

Over the past few years I have been using blogs with students. Primarily this has been a way of giving them ‘live’ feedback in class on their philosophical writing. As they write I am able to correct mistakes in their understanding, help them form ideas, and so on. In addition to blogs I have encouraged them to use a number of different Web 2.0 applications. GetGoaling, for example, allows students to set and monitor short and long term goals. Other tools such as Prezi, Spiderscribe, Quizlet, and Dipity, allow them to present information in ways that appeal to different learning styles.

From September I am going to get all of my students to create an e-portfolio using [www.weebly.com](http://www.weebly.com). This will enable everything that they do already (blogging, setting regular targets, reflecting on feedback, etc) to be collected together in one place. The result will be an on-line store of all their work that will demonstrate the progress they are making in Philosophy. They may choose to keep all of this private or publish it on the web.

You can see what this might look like by going to the following address:

<http://philosophywithsimon.weebly.com/>



The e-portfolio is essentially a set of web pages that are organised around various ‘tabs’. I’ve set this up so that there is a page for the student to record technical terminology, a page for ‘live assessment/feedback’, a page where they can upload essays and reflect on feedback from their teacher, a page where they can set short term goals and monitor their progress, a page where they can embed revision summaries they’ve created with Web 2.0 tools, and so on.

There are many good reasons for students to keep an e-portfolio of their work. Aside from improving their organisation, it helps promote high standards of literacy and develops their ICT skills. The main benefit, though, is that it provides a place where students can self-reflect and demonstrate how they are progressing in their learning.

So far I’ve found Weebly to be the easiest and most attractive site to use. However, a similar result can be achieved using Google Sites, Evernote and plenty of other websites.

If you decide to use blogging, e-portfolios, or other web 2.0 tools with students it is important to talk to them about e-safety. Publishing personal information on the web is potentially unsafe and appropriate precautions need to be taken. It is best practice to issue safety guidelines to students before using these tools.

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