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Tool nr. 68 - material

Developed by: University of Tartu

Name of the material

A portfolio

Sources

Kenneth Wolf. (1991). The Schoolteacher's Portfolio. *Phi Delta Kappan*, 73 (2), 129-136.

Purpose of the material

"Portfolios have much to offer the teaching profession. When teachers carefully examine their own practices, those practices are likely to improve. The examples of accomplished practice that portfolios provide also can be studied and adapted for use in other classrooms. And it's more than just a good idea". (K. Wolf)

Material

A portfolio is a collection of different data that can include e.g.

- overview of teacher's initial views of the topic
- analysis of the practical teaching experience, e.g. commented lesson plans
- description of teacher's strengths, weaknesses, accomplishments and growth
- assignments and ideas
- selected work from students
- group or/and individual projects
- reading logs
- written responses to data
- photos; audio and video tapes
- reference lists
- any material relevant to the inquiry
- pieces of writing at various stages, i.e. both rough drafts and polished products
- evaluation (self, peer and teacher evaluation)
- teacher's final views of the topic

Portfolio helps the teacher inquirer keep a purposeful collection of their work that shows their efforts, progress and achievement over time, so that they can refer back to it at any time.

The inquirer can systematise and organise the collected evidence in order to monitor the progress of their inquiry, the growth of their knowledge, skills, and attitudes in the area of their inquiry.

The effective use of the collected data means the inquirer can



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- see a clear goal for the inquiry
- start simple.
- ask questions if there are any
- make sure which data they have got
- find data from various resources
- share their findings with their colleagues
- use their colleagues' experience
- visualize their results in the form of a picture, a graph, etc.
- have a critical standpoint towards the data
- try to find out what is behind each data.

How you can use this material in your practice

Portfolios can be used to assess the inquirer's work and research. Self-assessment is an inevitable part of inquiry and should justify the items selected for the portfolio. Having the inquiry data all together helps compare them in order to draw broader conclusions and address the inquiry results in a more general way.

Debrief - reflection and metacognition

Data is nothing new in teacher's work. It is everything that you do in your daily practice but just needs some organisation. When organised in portfolio, data help to see the aspects/ factors that may be hidden behind more obvious things, and choose appropriate tools for the research.

Feedback on the use of the tool