

# Documenting Your Learning Outside of School

*A resource for high school students to use when preparing portfolios, college/career applications, or defenses of learning*

## Documenting Your Learning = Credentialing

*A fancy way to say “documenting your learning” is **credentialing**. It means turning real experiences into proof of your growth and skills.*

### Why document your learning?

Credentialing helps you show what you’ve learned outside of school. It turns real experiences into proof of your skills and growth.

### How It Connects to Portrait Skills

The Portrait of a Nevada Learner includes important skills such as problem-solving, communication, and resilience. Credentialing shows how your experiences helped you build skills that matter now and in the future.



**Learning happens everywhere!**

### Examples of Experiences That Count

Jobs, volunteering, service projects, clubs, and personal interests can all help you grow. Meaningful experiences usually involve planning, practice, problem-solving, and reflection over time, not just a quick task. An experience is considered rigorous when it shows mastery of a skill or competency. Teachers can help review your idea ahead of time and suggest ways to make it stronger so it clearly demonstrates that mastery.



### What does “credentialing” mean?

- Credentialing is the documentation of your learning outside of school.
- It turns meaningful experiences into proof of your growth and skills.
- Strong experiences include planning, problem-solving, reflection, and progress over time.
- You can learn through jobs, volunteering, service projects, clubs, and personal interests.
- Portrait skill levels help you see if an experience is challenging enough for high school and what evidence shows real growth.





## Questions to guide your reflection:



How did this experience help me grow or make an impact?

What skills did I practice or improve?

Which Portrait of a Nevada Learner competencies am I developing with intentionality?

What challenges did I face and how did I respond?

**Example:** One way to document your learning is through a portfolio that tells your learning story. You'll want to organize your portfolio by skill or competency. Your portfolio should include:

- ❑ REFLECTION: Short reflections about what you learned (from a project, work-based learning, community experience, etc.)
- ❑ EVIDENCE: Photos, work samples, notes, artifacts, or projects
- ❑ ADULT FEEDBACK: Feedback and verification of rigor from an adult connected to the experience

Documented learning outside of school can:

- Help you stand out in college or career conversations
- Show employers your real-world skills
- Build confidence by reminding yourself how much you've grown

Choose one out-of-school experience and use the Portrait of a Nevada Learner progressions to reflect on how it challenged you and helped you grow.

Portfolio

DID YOU KNOW?

NEXT STEPS

