

## eP@VT Quick Start

### For Joining the eP@VT Site:

- Log in to Scholar using your pid and password.
- Click on "My Workspace," located in the upper-right corner of the screen.
- Click on the "Membership" link, located on the left side of the screen (in the "Settings" box).
- Click on the "Joinable sites" link.
- In the "Search" box, type "eP@VT"
- Click on the "join" link.
- You may need to refresh your page, but you should see the "eP@VT" link at the top of your page. You can also access your eP@VT site by clicking on "My Sites" in the upper-right corner of the screen.

### For Creating Pages in your ePortfolio:

The process of creating an ePortfolio can be described with three steps:

- Put materials you would like to share (essays, films, pictures) into a folder in your My Workspace that has public access.
- Create portfolio pages using the "Matrices" tool in the eP@VT site. These pages can link to and describe the materials you wish to share from step 1.
- Create a portfolio website using the "Portfolios" tool in this site. This will wrap the pages you select together into a presentation. You can easily have more than one presentation, each used for different audiences or to describe different aspects of your educational efforts.

### For Adding the VT Portfolio Template:

- Once in your eP@VT site, click on the "Portfolios" link on the left side of the screen (in the "Portfolio Tools" box).
- Under the "Portfolio" heading, click the "Add" link.
- From the template drop-down menu, select "VT Portfolio Template (Global Template)."
- Click on the "Continue" button.
- Continue following steps 1 through 3 to create your portfolio template. You can always go back and edit these details of your ePortfolio, and you can add more portfolio templates in order to create different portfolios to meet different objectives (i.e., you can create an eP for learning, a professional eP, and a personal eP – just to name a few).

**Comparison of eP@VT and the Customized ePortfolio**

<http://eportfolio.vt.edu>

<b>eP@VT</b>	<b>Custom ePortfolio</b>
Open to all Virginia Tech faculty and students.	Only you and your students will have access to your eP matrix and template.
You do not have to have a Scholar site for your students to use eP@VT.	Need to have a Scholar site in order to have a customized eP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Course → needs to have portfolio tools</li> <li>○ Portfolio → only has portfolio tools (ideal if you only want to use Scholar for ePortfolio)</li> </ul>
Faculty can customize assignments for the eP@VT template. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This means that faculty are responsible for deciding how their students use the eP@VT template guiding students through the creation of the desired eP (i.e., providing handouts with prompts for the desired eP pages, etc.)</li> </ul>	You will work with the eP team to customize your matrix (for collecting material) and your presentation portfolio. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ You can include instructions for assignments and prompts for how you would like your students to create their eP pages.</li> </ul>
ePortfolio team can meet with you and your students and offer training and workshops on how to use the eP@VT site.	The eP team will work with you to customize your eP, and we'll provide training and handouts for you and your students.
Your students will have to go to the eP@VT site to create their ePortfolios.  Your students will have to join the eP@VT site, or the eP Initiatives team will add them.  You can add a link to any Scholar course site that takes the students to the eP@VT page.	Your students will be automatically added to your site once it is created in Scholar.  Students will be able to access all ePortfolio tools within your Scholar site.

## Getting Started with eP@VT

(see the eP@VT Quick Start handout or go to the eP website:

<http://eportfolio.vt.edu>)

1. Log in to Scholar
2. Join the eP@VT site
3. Create eP pages using the Matrix (click on the 'Matrices' link)
4. Put the pages together and create your portfolio presentation using the Portfolio Template (click on the 'Portfolios' link and then on 'add' to add the template).

## Getting Started with a Customized eP

1. Decide how you want to house your eP in Scholar – do you want to request a course site and ask to add eP tools to that site? Do you want to add eP tools to an existing course site? Or do you only want an eP site?

2. Contact a member of the eP Initiatives to start customizing your ePortfolio:

<http://eportfolio.vt.edu/about/contact.html>

- a. [mzaldiva@vt.edu](mailto:mzaldiva@vt.edu)
- b. [teggins@vt.edu](mailto:teggins@vt.edu)
- c. [eportfolio@scholar.vt.edu](mailto:eportfolio@scholar.vt.edu)

3. Read about our services and think about the type of information you would like to collect and present:

<http://eportfolio.vt.edu/about/services.html>



**VirginiaTech**  
Invent the Future

Alexandra Orchard-Hays  
My ePortfolio

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### Personal Statement

#### The Meeting of Many Paths

I remember a maroon composition book, covered in paper mache and rubbed brown with shoe polish to look old and worn. It was my historical journal in the fourth grade, and instead of recording a page's worth of my fictional journey across the American frontier, I wrote four, five, sometimes six pages. I learned extra notes around my maps and illustrations. My advisor was blown by my enthusiasm for the project, by my imagination, and perhaps by my narrative skills, and gave me an Outstanding on the ugly brown notebook full of ink blots and fingerprints. The hours I spent converting ideas to words in the cold, quiet basement of my parents' home were fruitful in subtle ways. When I got the assignment back, that ink blotted by the blue C with the silver face in it as I had felt when I had set the project on the stack with the others to be graded, I was proud of the journey, not the content.

There were days when I was young when I would reread my written assignments not to proofread them, but to relive what I felt when I had written them. As I progressed through school, however, never assignments evoked the extent of imagination that had put me into my historical journal. This was not altogether unfortunate, as I found myself growing more apt at organizing and formatting ideas than creating and embellishing them. Although I was still carried away on fanciful writings, inspired by books or movies that struck me deeply, I resisted at the concrete writing of analytical essays. In the sixth grade, one of my favorite English teachers read my essay aloud to the class as an ideal example of what she wanted. As she read and rapt ears listened, my words sounded like the teacher's, or like a textbook's, too objective and professional to be my own. My arguments were strong, my transitions fluid, and my use of quotations – highly effective. I remember that day because it helped me realize how my relationship with words had changed, and how the change could be useful.

An advisor once told me that the subject that you feel you have learned the most in throughout your school years should be your major. I came to Virginia Tech with this in my heart, but not in my mind. My mind was exploring the fields of science, music, history, and philosophy. It was wary of missing opportunities, and of getting trapped in a particular subject. Perhaps my inclination in pursuing a variety of subjects was to avoid a negative experience rather than to gain a positive one. I now fully realize I was



Department of English: Going Viral

Patrick McCarthy  
ePortfolio

Welcome Personal Reflection Showcase on Growth Engagement Director Academic Achievement

## Allow Me to Introduce Myself...

My name is Patrick McCarthy, and I am a Creative Writing major at Virginia Tech with the aspiration of being a Hollywood filmmaker. I love to get involved in every aspect of the filmmaking process. So, it's not unusual for me to make an entire film from scratch with no outside assistance. That mentality has made me aspire to be a new age Charlie Chaplin, and I only pray to be able to accomplish the kinds of amazing things he did in his life.