

First-Year Writing: Stretch English I

ENGL 1AF

Fall 2025 Section 03 In Person 3 Unit(s) 08/20/2025 to 12/08/2025 Modified 08/17/2025

Contact Information

Instructor:	Jill Logan
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Student Hours:	MW 1:00-2:00 via Zoom link or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	TTh 10:30-11:45 <i>This is the course day and time for the full year. You will enroll in this same section during the spring term, provided you earn credit in fall.</i>
Classroom:	Clark Building 308

Course Description and Requisites

Stretch I is the first semester of a year-long ENGL 1A that prepares students to join scholarly conversations across the university. Students develop reading skills, rhetorical sophistication, and writing styles that give form and coherence to complex ideas for various audiences, using various genres.

Prerequisite: Completion of Reflection on College Writing.

CR/NC/I Undergraduate

* Classroom Protocols

What Can We Expect from Each Other to Make This Class an Effective Learning Experience?

To help foster a positive classroom community, I expect that you will treat each other and me with respect and dignity at all times and that you will attend class regularly and give your full attention to the task at hand.

You can expect that I will treat you as an individual, and that I will challenge you to think. I am happy to talk to you about any concerns or questions you may have by email or during Student Hours. You can trust that I will make myself available to you for individualized help and that your growth as a reader and writer is at the heart of my intents.

The Stretch Calendar

Stretch I and II span the fall and spring terms: the fall and spring course are both required to complete the A2 coursework. You will be enrolled in the same section in spring semester (time, day, instructor) so you should plan on reserving this time slot in your spring schedule.

The A2 Milestone for Progress to Degree

The California State University system and SJSU expect all students to have completed their A2 requirement within the year. Please work with your instructors and all recommended support staff to achieve this milestone successfully.

Course Description

Stretch I and II, together, fulfill the Written Communication I requirement. Courses in GE Area A2 cultivate an understanding of the writing process and the goals, dynamics, and genres of written communication, with special attention to the nature of writing in the university. Students in these courses develop college-level reading abilities, rhetorical sophistication, and writing styles that give form and coherence to complex ideas and feelings. A grade of C-(minus) or better signifies that the student is a capable college-level writer and reader of English.

Stretch English is designed to give you more time to develop your reading and writing skills. By enrolling in this two-semester course, you are joining a learning community. You will study with the same classmates and writing instructor in both the fall and spring semesters. Staying with your class cohort both semesters accelerates your learning and gives you the chance to make strong relationships on campus.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas Learning Management System course login website. You're responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates. For help with using Canvas see

Canvas Student Resources page.

How much time will I need to spend on this class?

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours on this course each semester (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course-related activities. This would work out to 6 hours a week of homework in addition to the in-class 3 hours weekly. Keep in mind that we all work at different paces, and you will need to figure out and factor in your specific needs and allot time accordingly.

Campus Resources for Writers

SJSU Writing Center

Located on the second floor of the MLK Library, the Writing Center offers appointments with tutors who are well trained to assist you as you work to become a better writer. The Writing Center offers both one-on-one tutoring and workshops on a variety of writing topics. All services are free. To make an appointment or to refer to the Center's online resources, visit the Writing Center website.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections is your online, campus-wide resource for mentoring (time management, note taking, study skills, getting involved, etc.), tutoring (undergraduate writing, lower division Math, Science, History, Humanities, etc.), supplemental instruction (review and study sessions for select courses), and learning assistants in classes across campus. All services are free. Make appointments to meet with a tutor or mentor by visiting Spartan Connect. For more information on services, online workshops, and a step-by-step guide to making an appointment, please visit the [Peer Connections website](https://www.sjsu.edu/peerconnections/index.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/peerconnections/index.php>).

Program Policies

First-Year Writing policies are listed at the following website:

<https://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/program-policies.php>
(<https://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/program-policies.php>).

How Should I Prepare for Our Class?

You can start by coming to each class ready to go – to explore ideas, dialogue with your peers, share research and reading, analyze source materials, discuss samples, and workshop drafts. All classes will involve in-class activities intended to further your progress on the current assignment or project. You will want to save this classwork as we go. Therefore you will probably want to bring your own laptop or tablet. (Laptops and tablets are also available to be checked out in the library. If you have difficulty securing a laptop, please let me know as soon as possible.)

Welcome to this General Education course.

SJSU's General Education Program establishes a strong foundation of versatile skills, fosters curiosity about the world, promotes ethical judgment, and prepares students to engage and contribute responsibly and cooperatively in a multicultural, information-rich society. General education classes integrate areas of study and encourage progressively more complex and creative analysis, expression, and problem solving.

The General Education Program has three goals:

Goal 1: To develop students' core competencies for academic, personal, creative, and professional pursuits.

Goal 2: To enact the university's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and justice by ensuring that students have the knowledge and skills to serve and contribute to the well-being of local and global communities and the environment.

Goal 3: To offer students integrated, multidisciplinary, and innovative study in which they pose challenging questions, address complex issues, and develop cooperative and creative responses.

More information about the General Education Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) can be found on the [GE website \(https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php\)](https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php).

Course Goals

What Will We Explore Together in This Course?

Let's start here: You wake up in the morning. You slosh the coffee into your cup. You open up your digital device and begin scrolling through the headlines. But what is it you're looking for? A voice? A conversation? Some sort of connection to the world around you? And what conversation is initiated by an Opinion essay that seeks to explain the experience of a Ukrainian refugee to a diverse audience? What role does the picture of a crying toddler held in a detention center play in the global dialogue on immigration? What is the effect of people on opposing sides of the gun debate trading views in the comments section of a story on violence in American schools? And your social media feeds provide a cacophony of voices and opinions from your fellow citizens, but are those media effective avenues for actually engaging in democratic dialogue and creating change? Ultimately, as citizens of this globe, how do reading and writing allow us to inform and enlighten, to share and engage in these conversations?

In this class, we'll use the *New York Times* as a text to initiate our inquiry into these kinds of questions (and more!). As we scroll through the digital pages each week, we will go deeper into our exploration of the role that reading and writing play in our exchange of ideas and democratic dialogue. And ultimately, we will ask ourselves whether or not the *New York Times*, itself, works as a forum for democratic dialogue and activism.

We have much exploration ahead of us. So let's begin our inquiry together...

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

GE Area A2: Written Communication

Written Communication I courses cultivate an understanding of the writing process and the goals, dynamics, and genres of written communication, with special attention to the nature of writing at the university. A grade of C- or better designates that a student has successfully oriented reading and writing practice in English to support college level research and learning.

GE Area A2 Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of an Area A2 course, students should be able to:

1. demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the content, context, effectiveness, and forms of written communication;
2. perform essential steps in the writing process (prewriting, organizing, composing, revising, and editing);
3. articulate an awareness of and write according to the rhetorical features of texts, such as purpose, audience, context, and rhetorical appeals;
4. integrate their ideas and those of others by synthesizing, explaining, analyzing, developing, and criticizing ideas effectively in several genres; and
5. demonstrate college-level language use, clarity, and grammatical abilities in writing.

Course Materials

What Texts will I need?

You'll be reading stories daily in *The New York Times*, essays on the media, various articles and essays on citizenship...and more! You will also read texts that discuss the writing process, as well as a style guide that explores the finer intricacies of writing.

You'll need to procure the text listed below:

Clark, Roy Peter. *Writing Tools* (6th Edition), ISBN: 978-0316014991

Available through the Spartan Bookstore or through other booksellers. Notice that you will need this book for both semesters; therefore I recommend **buying it rather than renting it**.

How do I subscribe to the *New York Times*?

Together we are embarking on an exploration of the role reading and writing play in being a global citizen pursuing democratic action. To study that relationship, we will read the news and share our learning and experiences in writing. I chose *The New York Times* as the main text for our reading because, in its pages, you will find and engage with a wide range of voices.

The digital version will allow you to keep a personal archive of stories you are following for your writing assignments in this course. Use the following link to access the educational subscription page. You will use your MySJSU account (@sjsu.edu) to set up your free subscription: <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/nyt-online>

Course Requirements and Assignments

The tables below show the sequence of assignments in this course in both fall and spring semesters and how these assignments align with SJSU General Education Learning Outcomes:

Table 1: Fall Semester

Assignment	Estimated Word Count	GE Learning Objective
Discovery Draft: Email Your Topic (with Reflection)	600	GELO 1,2,3,4,5
Digital Personal Essay (with Reflection)	1000	GELO 2,3,5
Discovery Draft: Counterpoint	750	GELO 1,2,3,4,5
NYT Guest Essay (with Reflection)	1000	GELO 2,3,4,5
Mid-Year Portfolio	875	GELO 1,2,3,4,5

Table 2: Spring Semester

Assignment	Estimated Word Count	GE Learning Objective
Interview Project	1000	GELO 2,3,5
Digital Profile (with Reflection)	1000	GELO 2,3,4,5
Discovery Draft: Argument Analysis (with Reflection)	750	GELO 1,2,3,4,5
Media Analysis Presentation (with Reflection)	800	GELO 2,3,5
Digital Critical Essay (with Reflection)	1000	GELO 2,3,4,5
Final Portfolio	1000	GELO 1,2,3,4,5

Reflections

As noted in the table above, you will be asked to submit a Reflection as part of the grade for your major assignments. In the Reflection, you will discuss your choices and your process and submit supporting documentation to help us dialogue about your work.

Other Assignments

Canvas Discussions/Story Responses

You will be asked to post various Discussion responses to Canvas that we will use as springboards for our discussions and writing in class. Some will be Story Responses, in which you update your peers about NYT stories related to your topic and engage with them in inquiry related to those stories. For other discussions, I will post a specific prompt and you will write a response to it. Some will be creative, while others will be more critical.

In-class Activities

These activities will be designed to help with various stages of the writing process and to facilitate our discussions throughout the year. I will give individual instruction on these during class time. Often they will require you to turn in something to me. Some of these activities will be Individual/Team quizzes, which I will explain during class. *Because these activities require the dynamic collaboration of our class, In-class Activities cannot be made up.*

Peer Reviews

One of the best ways to improve as a writer is to think critically about and give feedback on the writing of others. Not only is this important to your growth as a writer, but it will help you to develop the soft skill of giving feedback to others in a professional capacity. For major assignments you'll be graded on your work giving peer feedback, and it will be a focus of several in-class activities.

What is the Final Examination or Evaluation?

In Stretch English, our learning each semester culminates in a Portfolio. In this assignment, we will gather samples of our writing that demonstrate our learning; we will write a reflection essay that explains what we have learned, how we learned it, and how we will use it in future learning; and we will submit our portfolio for consideration to other people in the first-year writing program. This is our chance to identify and articulate what we've learned and what we'll take forward with us into future learning/writing experiences.

Grading Information

How Will We Evaluate My Progress?

Your Stretch colleagues and I will provide you feedback on your work to help you apply lessons learned in each activity to the next assignment and to transfer lessons learned from one assignment to the next.

My grading practices respect your right to feedback within a reasonable time so that you may not only know your scores, but also understand the criteria applied to the evaluation of your work. I will give you feedback in the form of rubrics, short notes, longform comments, annotations, and written dialogues with you. However, our goal is to work together to make *you* an efficient and effective evaluator of your own work.

In the fall semester (ENGL 1AF), you will receive either a CR (credit) or a NC (no credit). To receive credit in the fall semester, you must demonstrate significant, measurable progress throughout the semester.

In the spring semester (ENGL 1AS), you will receive a letter grade for the course. You must earn a C- or better to earn graduation credit for GE Area A2.

See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details on your right to understand your grades.

How Will Individual Assignments Be Evaluated?

For each assignment, I will give you a *rubric* so that you will have a clear understanding of how and why the work is being evaluated the way it is. Keep in mind that our work here is not just to create written *products*, but to continually improve your reading and writing *processes*. This means that you will also be turning in Reflections on your work so that you and I can both evaluate the effectiveness of your writing process.

How Assignments Are Weighted to Determine Grades

Fall 2025: Grades in the fall are based on measured progress toward proficiency in the learning objectives outlined in the Syllabus.

Item	% of Course Grade	Word Count*
Discovery draft: Email Your Topic (with Reflection)	3%	600
Digital Personal Essay (with Reflection)	6%	1000
Discovery draft: Counterpoint	3%	750
NYT Guest Essay (with Reflection)	8%	1000
Midyear Portfolio	5%	750
In-Class Activities	5%	N/A
Discussions/Story Responses	5%	N/A
Peer Reviews	5%	N/A
	Fall Total	[40%]

Spring 2026: A final grade of C- or better in English 1AS is needed to satisfy GE Area A2.

Item	% of Course Grade	Word Count*
Interview Transcript	1%	1000

Digital Profile (with Reflection)	9%	1000
Discovery draft: Argument Analysis (with Reflection)	4%	750
Media Analysis Presentation (with Reflection)	12%	800
Digital Critical Essay (with Reflection)	12%	1200
Final Portfolio	7%	1000
In-Class Activities	5%	N/A
Discussions/Story Responses	5%	N/A
Peer Reviews	5%	N/A
	Spring Total	[60%]

Total Word Count / Fall and Spring: 9850 (5150 finished writing)

How Will My Grade Be Calculated?

In Stretch English, your course grade is based on the grades you earn on the work you produce through both semesters. Final grades will adhere to this grading scale:

A = 93-100%	B+ = 87-89.9%	C+ = 77-79.9%	D+ = 67-69.9%
A- = 90-92.9%	B = 83-86.9%	C = 73-76.9%	D = 63-66.9%
	B- = 80-82.9%	C- = 70-72.9%	D- = 60-62.9%
			F = 0%-59.9%

In the fall semester (ENGL 1AF), you will receive either a CR (credit) or a NC (no credit). To receive credit in the fall semester, you'll need to demonstrate significant, measurable progress throughout the semester.

In the spring semester (ENGL 1AS), you will receive a letter grade for the course. You need to earn a C- or better to earn graduation credit for GE Area A2.

How Will Late Work Be Assessed?

For assignments submitted late, 10% will be deducted from the assignment's overall score. Late work must be submitted by the end of the semester. **If you fall behind, please make arrangements with Jill to make a plan to catch up.**

Are there opportunities for extra credit?

Yes! You can make an appointment to conference with Jill. This is a chance for us to get to know each other better and for me to offer you more 1-on-1 help than you'd get in the regular classroom. Getting to know students is one of my favorite parts of teaching, so help me help you!

The extra credit points can be applied to either your In-Class Activities score or your Discussions/Story Response score. You may earn **2 extra credit points per semester**.

I also offer extra credit points for the Individual/Team quizzes.

A note on Academic Integrity

Your commitment to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

What about AI?

As AI is emerging in the workforce, you will likely encounter and use AI in your daily tasks. We will use AI technology in this class as a means of assistive technology during the writing process. One of the course goals is to help you learn to write and communicate effectively, which requires practice. Therefore, you must learn how to create and recognize high-quality writing yourself. If AI can do these tasks without you, you won't have employable skills. We will discuss how to ethically use AI, and you will be responsible for any final product and limitations or potential biases from LLMs. You will also be responsible for disclosing when and how you used AI.

Misusing AI (i.e., using it to write the majority of the assignment without significant contributions or revision) or failing to disclose the use of AI will result in consequences ranging from a written/verbal warning to failing the assignment or course and a report to the Student Conduct Board. If you are unsure, ask!

Disclosure Agreement:

If you use AI to assist you, you must disclose how and how much you used AI in your writing process. Below are samples of how you can disclose your use of AI tools.

- I did all of this work on my own without assistance from tools, technology, or AI.
- I did the first draft but then asked AI paraphrase/grammar/plagiarism software to read it and make suggestions. I made the following changes after this help:
 - Fixed spelling and grammar
 - Changed the structure or order
 - Rewrote entire sentences/paragraphs
- I used AI to help me generate ideas. (Describe that process.)
- I used AI to do an outline/first draft, which I then edited. (Describe the nature of your contributions.)

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

Please note that the Course Schedule (like a developing thesis) may be subject to change. I will keep you notified of changes via email and class announcements.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Th August 21	Read: Syllabus Bring to class: Questions about Syllabus In-Class Activity: Canvas orientation In-Class Activity: Meet Your Classmates
2	T August 26	Due in class: "Help Me Help You!" Questionnaire In-Class Activity: Subscribe to the <i>New York Times</i> In-Class Activity: Create Our Classroom Guidelines
2	Th August 28	Read (before class): Stories from the <i>New York Times</i> Due on Canvas: Story Response (Find a Story) In-Class Activity: Reading Strategies, NYT Scavenger Hunt
3	T September 2	Jumpstarting Digital Literacy Workshop We'll meet in the Student Union Ballroom during our regular class time. We will not meet in Clark 308 on this day. Due on Canvas: Post a pic and share 1 thing you learned

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
3	Th September 4	Read (before class): Stories from the <i>New York Times</i> Read (before class): Ron Israel's "What does it mean to be a global citizen?" (Canvas) Bring to class: Annotated readings Due on Canvas: Discussion (Find one related story or link) In-Class Activity: Choosing Your Topic and Its Key Terms
4	T September 9	Read (before class): Stories from the <i>New York Times</i> Read (before class): Ballenger Chapter 2 "Reading as Inquiry" Due on Canvas: Story Response (While I Was Reading) In-Class Activity: Assign Teams In-Class Activity: Individual/Team Quiz In-Class Activity: KWL+ and Dialoguing with the Text
4	Th September 11	Read (before class): Stories from the <i>New York Times</i> Bring to class: Annotated story and Double-Entry Journal pages for your story In-Class Activity: Discuss Email Your Topic Assignment In-Class Activity: Audience, Genre, and Purpose
5	T September 16	Read (before class): Ballenger Chapter 1 "Writing as Inquiry" Read (before class): Writing Tools #41, 42, 48, 50 In-Class Activity: The Writing Process In-Class Activity: Individual/Team Quiz

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
5	Th September 18	Read (before class): Stories from the <i>New York Times</i> Bring to class: KWL+ for your topic (at least 3 stories on your NYT topic) and your Double-Entry Journal In-Class Activity: Inquiry Workshop Due on Canvas: Story Response (Inquiry)
6	T September 23	Read (before class): Stories from the <i>New York Times</i> Read (before class): Writing Tools #1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 22 In-Class Activities: Parts of Your Argument, Building Complexity with Grammar Due on Canvas: Story Response (New with your topic?)
6	Th September 25	Read (before class): Stories from the <i>New York Times</i> In-Class Activity: Discuss Reflection, Using Digital Tools Due to Canvas: Email Your Topic Assignment
7	T September 30	Read (before class): Stories from the <i>New York Times</i> In-Class Activity: Discuss and plan for Digital Personal Essay, Prewriting strategies Due on Canvas: Reflection with supporting documents
7	Th October 2	Read (before class): Ballenger Chapter 3 “Writing a Personal Essay” Read (before class): Writing Tools #14, 16 Due on Canvas: Discussion (Details) In-Class Activity: Individual/Team Quiz In-Class Activity: Sketch Your Personal Essay

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
8	T October 7	Due on Canvas: Story Response (Trajectory) Bring to class: Your prewriting and sketch In-Class Activity: Workshop to Structure Your Personal Essay
8	Th October 9	Read (before class): Stories from the <i>New York Times</i> Read (before class): Writing Tools #25, 55 Due on Canvas: Story Response (Inciting Incident) In-Class Activity: Workshop to Generate Details for Narrative Writing
9	T October 14	Bring to class: Complete draft of your Personal Essay In-Class Activity: Peer Review Workshop
9	Th October 16	Bring to class: <i>Revised</i> draft of your personal essay In-Class Activity: Discuss Editing Strategies In-Class Activity: Editing Workshop
10	T October 21	Due on Canvas: Final draft of your Digital Personal Essay In-Class Activity: Discuss NYT Opinion section In-class Activity: Discuss Counterpoint and rubric
10	Th October 23	Read (before class): Opinion pages in <i>NYT</i> Due on Canvas: Reflection with supporting documents In-Class Activity: Analyzing an Argument

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
11	T October 28	Read (before class): Opinion pages in <i>NYT</i> Due on Canvas: Story Response (Looking for Your Counterpoint) In-Class Activity: Freewrite for Counterpoint
11	Th October 30	Read (before class): Opinion pages in <i>NYT</i> Due on Canvas: Counterpoint In-Class Activity: Discuss conventions of the NYT Opinion Guest Essay In-Class Activity: Discuss NYT Audience
12	T November 4	Read (before class): Opinion pages in <i>NYT</i> Due on Canvas: Discussion (Pathos) In-Class Activity: Analyzing Argument In-Class Activity: Discuss NYT Guest Essay Assignment
12	Th November 6	Read (before class): Opinion pages in <i>NYT</i> Read (before class): Ballenger Chapter 7 "Writing an Argument" Read (before class): Writing Tools #44, 53 Due on Canvas: Story Response (Understand the Audience for Your Topic) Bring to Class: A sketch of your argument In-Class Activity: Workshop to Shape Claims, Reasons, Evidence In-Class Activity: Team/Individual Quiz
13	T November 11	NO CLASS – VETERANS DAY

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
13	Th November 13	Read (before class): Opinion pages in <i>NYT</i> Due on Canvas: Discussion (Logos) In-Class Activity: Workshop on Choosing Evidence and Attributing Sources
14	T November 18	Read (before class): Opinion pages in <i>NYT</i> Read (before class): Writing Tools #20, 21, 10 Due on Canvas: Discussion (Ethos) In-Class Activity: Strategies for Emotional and Logical Appeals In-Class Activity: Tools for Your Digital Essay
14	Th November 20	Bring to class: Complete draft of your NYT Opinion Guest Essay In-Class Activity: Peer Review Workshop
15	T November 25	Due on Canvas: NYT Guest Essay Bring to class: Laptop with all work and reflections from semester In-class Activity: Discuss the Midyear Portfolio Instructions
15	Th November 27	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK
16	T December 2	Due on Canvas: Reflection with supporting documents In-class Activity: Exercise Toward Understanding Assessment, Gathering Claims and Evidence
16	Th December 4	Due on Canvas: Discussion (Connect to audience) In-Class Activity: Discuss and Prepare for Interview Assignment

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
Final Exam	Th December 11	Due on Canvas: Midyear Portfolio

Our work over the Winter Break: During the month of January, you'll be getting started on your interviews for your Digital Profiles (due in Spring 2026), which will include posting to Canvas.