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Portfolio Reflection

In creating this portfolio, I needed to take a step back and consider my entire career at Skidmore. To do this, I first thought about which assignments or achievements came to mind immediately. I figured the most important and influential assignments would make enough of an impression on me that they would pop into my head instantly. In this initial brainstorm, I thought of my Ara Pacis presentation, as it was one of my earliest and most intensive assignments. I also remembered how dedicated my partner and I were to getting it just right, and how the process of creating the presentation provided me with most of my research skills. I also immediately thought of my paper on ancient wood, since that research was critical to my archaeology path. Next, to evaluate all my previous work, I consulted the infamous degree audit. I decided to use this tool because it is the only place that shows all my courses with their corresponding requirements or attributes. I scrolled through my Classics module, considering the context of each course. While contemplating my options, I took into account the type of class and the major assignments completed in the class. After going through this process, I ended up selecting two assignments from The Body and Soul in Ancient Greece. First, the podcast assignment because it is the only one of its sort, and because the content of the podcast is unique. I learned a lot about developing a podcast and using audio equipment, potentially aiding in future podcasting endeavors. My group discussed modern implications of understanding the past, which is a topic not often explored in this major. For those reasons, I decided it would be a great assignment to

choose for my portfolio. I also selected my site presentations from that course because like my Ara Pacis presentation, I was able to practice presenting orally in front of my peers. This type of presentation is important because it prepared me for teaching experiences that I would have down the line at Skidmore and hopefully beyond.

Next, I wanted to zoom forward in my career and selected my final research papers for Greek prose and poetry. My paper on timekeeping in Pausanias's *Description of Greece* exemplifies the progress I have made since elementary and intermediate Greek, being able to move beyond translation and grammar. In this paper, I analyzed style, which is a topic I would never have imagined I was capable of when I first came to Skidmore (I never even imagined I would take Greek to begin with). In Professor Aghababian's *Lysistrata* class, I am writing about reception, which is also a topic that I have seldom researched. Although this paper is still in progress, the research and writing process thus far have proven to be impactful on my Classics experience.

In terms of site layout and design, I began by selecting a template that suited my preferences. I then had to strip it of the filler material and slightly reformat it to meet the needs of this project. I organized the website into three pages: first, the home page, giving a brief bio about me and why I chose to be a Classics major. Next, the portfolio page. This page contains the meat of my portfolio. I chose to organize my entries in discrete boxes ordered by date. The boxes contain information about the course that goes with the assignment, the learning goals and literacy that the assignment exemplifies, and my reflection on the assignment. Also included is a button linking to the paper, handout, poster, or podcast. This layout felt the most user-friendly to me, and the clean lines created a visually appealing design. Finally, I included a page stating the learning goals and literacies. I felt that this was necessary because the reader cannot view all the

goals and literacies just by reading the portfolio. With this supplemental page, the object of the portfolio is clear. A major challenge of this assignment was navigating WordPress. I have never created a website like this before, and many of the layout and design tools were new to me. I had to figure out the nuances of the service to make my website look polished, like properly linking assignments, arranging modules, and overriding template layout features. Now that I have completed my portfolio, I would be able to craft websites using WordPress with ease.

Overall, this portfolio was a challenging, intense, and often frustrating assignment, however, it was also extremely gratifying. The process of inward reflection and taking stock of my four years at Skidmore was infinitely valuable. When I think about the person I was in high school and compare him to the person I have become, I feel immensely grateful for my education (and especially grateful to the Classics department). The skills I have gained in and out of the classroom, and the passion for learning that I never had before invigorates me to keep pushing forward.