Congratulations! You have completed your twenty-four entries for your graduation portfolio. Now it is time to write your summative reflection, the reflective essay that introduces your portfolio to your reviewers. Your summative reflection should do the following:

- Prepare the reviewers for the rest of the portfolio. This is your chance to provide your readers with an engaging preview of the “story” they are about to read.

- Discuss in detail why you chose your entries: to what extent does the portfolio represent your best work? How did you determine what entries represent you in your graduation portfolio?

- Provide an honest, insightful, and thoughtful account of your high school learning experience. This is your chance to tell your story.

- Offer a variety of evidence to support your claims about what you have learned, how you learn, and the skills you have learned: What are the best learning styles for you? What are your strengths as a learner? You must provide specific, detailed examples.

- Discuss how your growth as a student is represented in your portfolio: In what areas have you shown improvement? What are some areas where you still would like to improve? You must provide specific, detailed examples.

- You must identify and discuss at least 4 entries in your portfolio. You can use the 4 entries that you include on your Request for Review.

The audience for this reflection is universal—anyone should be able to read your reflection and be well-prepared to look at your entries.

Consider writing this essay as a narrative of your high school journey. You certainly may refer to the “turns and twists” in the road; your voice should be evident. Each of your journeys has been different, and this should be a “real” and honest reflection of your experience. Be specific and support what you say with ample evidence.

Your summative reflection should NOT include your comments or opinions about whether the portfolio should be a graduation requirement or the process we use at NHS to create the portfolio. In other words, the summative reflection is not about the fact that the graduation portfolio is required. Instead, it is your opportunity to explain what work you put in your portfolio, why you put that work in it, and what that work says about you as a learner and your learning experience.