**ePortfolio Action Research Outline**

1. **Focus:** Student ePortfolios in English Language Arts (ELA).
2. **Purpose:** To determine if the use of student ePortfolios in ELA classes increase writing achievements.
3. **Research Question:** Does using student ePortfolios to create writing assignments in 8th grade ELA, result in increased achievement versus those who use paper and pencil?
4. **Research Design:** The design will be a mix of quantitative and qualitative. The quantitative for ELA will be a measure of grade average from students who write their ELA assignments in their ePortfolios vs students who handwrite their assignments on paper. The qualitative will be the measure of teacher input of ePortfolio submission vs paper submission for ELA.
5. **Data to be Collected:** The measure of the research question will be in two parts.
	1. **Quantitative**: The data collected from grades in each written assignment throughout the second semesters, from both study groups, for analysis.
	2. **Qualitative:** The second will be in the form of a survey from teachers of both groups to gage their analysis of electronic vs paper submission of assignments.
6. **Measurement Instrument(s):** The individual unit scores from throughout the school year will be compared to determine if ePortfolio assessments were significantly greater than paper submissions for both subject. A survey will assess to determine teacher assessment of electronic vs paper submission in the form of composition, spelling, and grammatical use. Legibility will not be used as a factor since there can be no comparison.
7. **Focus of Lit Review:** The lit review will be a brief exploration into the use of ePortfolios in general with the focus on using the ePortfolio as a tool for student assessment. While the focus will be on ePortfolio use as an assessment tool, current literature available is mostly on graduate level use of ePortfolios as a tool for assessing student assignments. This research may be submitted for publication which will add to available literature for K-12 ePortfolio assessment.