Your Intellectual Autobiography:
An Element of The Bases of Competence Skills Portfolio

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Purpose:

Your Intellectual Autobiography and Personal Mission Statement form the first section of your Skills Portfolio. Writing your Intellectual Autobiography is a way to reflect on your achievements, challenges, successes, failures, and important decisions.

Specifications:

• Length: two to three double-spaced pages (limit of five pages).

• Think of the Intellectual Autobiography as "your story."

• Describe your intellectual development so far. Comment on specific academic and non-academic achievements that brought you to your current program. The focus is on the academic side, but if you are comfortable describing non-academic achievements and issues go ahead.

• Your instructor(s) will be reading your Skills Portfolio and you may wish to share your portfolio with others, so do not include any personal information that you would like to keep confidential.

• Think of the Intellectual Autobiography as a first step in documenting your competency on the various skills in the Bases of Competence skills model.

• Please remember that the Intellectual Autobiography and the entire Skills Portfolio is not graded on your level of proficiency of the skills, but rather on how well you present the material.

• It is my hope that the Intellectual Autobiography, Personal Mission Statement, and the Skills sections of the Portfolio help you - as a lifelong learner - take stock of where you are now. I also hope that you will continue to update your Portfolio. I’ve had many former students tell me that the Skills Portfolio was very useful to their personal transition to the workplace and that they continue to update their portfolios.