

EXTENDED ESSAY:

What Parents Need to Know!



What is an Extended Essay?

- An investigation into an area of interest to the student
- On a question, issue, or hypothesis chosen by the student, not assigned by the teacher
- In a subject or discipline listed by the IBO (subject guides available on Blackboard)
- In the format of a formal research paper



What is an Extended Essay? Cont'd

- A 4,000 word essay (3900-4100)
- Approximately 10 to 12 pages
- Using information from primary and secondary sources
- Approximately 8 to 20 sources, depending on subject area
- Must represent the student's own, unaided work



The Format of the Extended

- Title Page
- Table of Contents
- Acknowledgments
- Abstract
- Text
- Appendices
- Bibliography



Assessment of the Extended Essay

- Externally assessed by examiners assigned by IBO
- Assessed according to general criteria and subject area criteria published by IBO



Length of the Process

- Students should spend approximately 40 hours on their Extended Essay (may exclude summer internship time)
- Students begin in March with a series of workshops explaining details about the essay, outlining the process, and instructing students on subject area and topic selection.



Length of the Process: Cont'd

- Future workshops are scheduled for April 25 and May 1
- Students will be required to complete an additional session on-line through Blackboard.
- By mid-May, students must have chosen their subject area and their specific topic, and must have written a rough research question and developed a bibliography of sources.



Length of the Process

- In mid-May, students will be assigned an in-house mentor, a teacher or staff member who will guide them through the process from May until the essay is completed next school year.
- Due Dates for next year have not yet been established.



Why Does EE Matter?

Requirement for the IB
Diploma

Requirement for IA
graduation



EE's Role in the IB Program

□ Extended Essay, along with TOK scores for presentation and prescribed title essay, serve as:

- **Passing condition for IB diploma**
- **Bonus points for diploma scores**



- The subject area a student chooses becomes part of his/her IB Diploma registration. (Once this is submitted, it cannot be changed without paying a large fee.)



EE's Role in the IA

- Students receive an EE grade for second semester junior year and first semester senior year. This grade is worth .25 of the GPA in each semester.
- This grade is determined by attending sessions, completing assignments, meeting deadlines, acquiring necessary signatures, etc.



Why?

- The IA grade is our attempt to keep student's on track with a project that cannot, according to IB, be a part of a specific class.
- Students must work on their own time, pace their tasks, and complete the project in time to meet IB deadlines.



Who is involved in the EE process?

- The student
- The parent
- The student's supervisor (mentor)
- The extended essay coordinator
- The International Baccalaureate Organization



Student Responsibilities

- Attend training sessions
- Meet assigned deadlines
- Set goals and self-monitor their progress
- Work outside of school to complete tasks
- Work consistently and in increments over time rather than all-at-once when an assignment is due
- Schedule appointments to meet with their mentors; keep those appointments
- Complete a majority of work over the summer months



Mentor Responsibilities

- Meet with their students to check their progress, offer suggestions, answer questions
- Report to the coordinator when students have not met deadlines
- Review research questions, outlines, and rough drafts
- Read final drafts, make predicted grades, and complete IB folders before essays are sent to examiners



Parent Responsibilities

- Be informed about the Extended Essay process, student assignments and deadlines.
- Monitor student progress.
- Provide opportunities outside of the school day for the student to work on his essay.
- Support the student by talking with him or her about progress and problems and by offering guidance and suggestions.



School's Responsibilities

- Provide guidance through mentoring and workshop training
- Provide detailed documents describing the process, the format, and the deadlines; provide sample essays
- Assign mentors
- Monitor student progress
- Assist students in meeting IB requirements



Current Tasks for Students: They should be:

- Discussing topic ideas with an expert in the field of interest (a history, English, science teacher, etc.)
- Thinking about issues, authors, problems that they have heard about during their IB study that might serve as EE topics.
- Doing some preliminary reading.
- Making a list of potential topics.



Current Tasks for Students: They should be:

- Considering an outside mentor (science particularly).
- Narrowing to one or two subject areas and one or two topic areas within each of those subjects



Current Tasks for Students: They should be:

- Choosing a topic that requires them to argue a position, evaluate an issue, draw conclusions from an experiment or case study, create a solution to a problem, etc.
- (The essay must argue a position; it may not be a report!)



Caveats for Topics

- Students may not choose a topic they have used for another IB assessment (no double-dipping).
- They should not choose a topic about which they have a personal bias.
- They must consider the subject area criteria. Each area has specific requirements that must be met to earn a respectable score.



Mistakes Students Make

- Failing to read the subject guidelines
- Assuming that since they have done a history internal assessment, they should write an extended essay in history
- Writing on the same topic as their history assessment
- Choosing topics that require little or no analysis or conclusion



Mistakes Students Make

- Choosing topics that do not fit the subject area guidelines
- Choosing topics about which there is little available research without traveling to India in a rowboat
- Picking a rabbit out of a hat – any topic – “I’ll change it later.”



Mistakes Students Make

- The Bilbo Baggins Syndrome – “I don’t want to go on this journey; I like my hobbit-hole!” - **Denial**
- The Scarlett O’Hara Syndrome – “I can’t think about that now; I’ll worry about that tomorrow.” - **Delay**



Mistakes Students Make

- Procrastinating!
- Procrastinating!
- Procrastinating!



Mistakes Some Students Make

PLAGIARISM

The use of the work of other authors

(texts, data, creative productions,

oral statements OR ideas) without proper acknowledgement, with the

effect that it appears to be the plagiarist's own work or idea.



Plagiarism: Intentional and Unintentional

Unintentional:

- Forgetting citations
- Forgetting quotation marks
- Improper paraphrasing
- Sloppy note taking

Intentional:

- Submitting a purchased paper
- Submitting a paper written entirely or partially by another person
- Cutting and pasting electronically
- Copying words and phrases without documentation



Consequences of Plagiarism

- IBO considers plagiarism a serious violation of academic integrity.
- A student who plagiarizes an extended essay risks loss of his IB Diploma.
- IBO leaves the responsibility for detecting plagiarism to the individual school.
- The IA Code of Conduct addresses the definition and consequences of cheating.
- Plagiarism may result in suspension.



The Internet: *a "Terrible Wonder"*

- The web is vast in sources – databases, encyclopedias, scholarly articles and journals, electronic texts, study guides, etc.
- [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) – A licensed service, recommended by IB, assesses the authenticity of student work by checking it against virtually any information out there.



Help us help your student be
successful in this process!

Questions?

Thank you for coming tonight!

