



Tips for Writing a Successful Extended Essay



What do you know (or think you know) about the EE?



# General information

- You will begin the Extended Essay (EE) process in January.
- You will be working with a teacher supervisor here in the building.
- You will receive one credit for spring semester of this year and one credit for fall semester of next year.
- The credit is solely based upon your process, not the product.
- The process grade is largely based upon meeting deadlines and following instructions.
- Your product grade is awarded by the IB, not PHS.



# General info, continued...

- Your EE will be a maximum of 4,000 words (approximately 12 – 15 pages.)
- You will be graded on “general” criteria, regardless of the topic; however, there is subject-specific guidance to assist you in interpreting the criteria for the subject area of your choice.
- You must successfully complete an EE to earn an IB Diploma.
- If you earn an “elementary” on either your EE or in TOK, you will not earn your IB Diploma (unless you score over 28 points on your exams.)



## General Info, cont'd.

- You will receive release time from your IB classes in May to complete your full professional draft.
- You may negotiate, in writing, why you might also need the summer to complete the draft. This negotiation must be approved by your teacher supervisor and submitted to Mrs. King in writing.
- If you don't complete an EE and submit it by the deadline, you will not continue in the Diploma Program, and you will not sit for exams.
- Seriously.





## First steps...

1. Look over the guides for the subjects that interest you and decide upon your subject area **by Friday, Dec. 2.** (They are on the PHS website: IB, Diploma Program, Extended Essay.)
2. Once you have decided upon a subject area, go to the IB Office and sign up for a subject and a possible teacher supervisor. Do not even consider doing this step until you have completed step #1.





See you in five minutes...





# Extended Essay Tips for success

- You will have, or have access to, all the information you need to succeed.



## FIRST:

- Choose a topic that interests you in a subject area of your strength. Extended Essay topics have developed into Master's degree theses and Ph.D. dissertations. Make sure you choose a topic that fascinates you!!





## SECOND:

- You have access to the same assessment criteria the graders will be using to evaluate your essay. Read these criteria until you **know them by heart**.

- Research question
- Introduction
- Investigation
- Knowledge and understanding of the topic
- Reasoned argument
- Application of analytical and evaluative skills appropriate to the subject

- Use of language appropriate to the subject
- Conclusion
- Formal presentation
- Abstract
- Holistic Judgment



THIRD:

## Additional Resources at your disposal:

- A Pocket Style Manual – buy it, use it, love it 😊
- Purdue Online Writing Lab - <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>
- The Poudre High School databases and print resources
- The PRLD databases and print resources
- CSU databases and print resources
- [www.plagium.com](http://www.plagium.com)
- [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)





## Read, a lot...

- Check out the essays of those who came before you. There are exemplars in the shared student folder.
- You will be given sample “A” essays from your subject area in January when you begin the process.
- Read non-fiction writers who cite information in their work:
  - Mary Roach, author of *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*, and more...
- Pay attention to how writers punctuate and cite and incorporate facts, quotes, charts, statistics, etc. and use published authors’ writing as models for your own.



# Where will you get your information?

## –Secondary sources:

- Library databases
- Professional publications
- Credible Websites

## –Primary sources:

- Interviews
- Observations
- Experimentation



# Self-Advocacy Skills

- If you struggle to understand any of the criteria and requirements of the Extended Essay, utilize your resources until you **do** understand:
  - Your EE supervisor
  - Other content specialists
  - Mrs. King
  - The media specialists
- ...all of whom were put on the planet to assist you in your quest to be a fabulously successful academic writer.



# Your responsibilities

- The Extended Essay is where you get to demonstrate your capabilities.
- The extended essay is your work and only your work.
- This doesn't mean you can't ask for and receive help, but it does mean that you will get advice, not someone to do the work for you.



# Past stumbling blocks...

- Plagiarism...

- Your research paper is a collaboration between you and your sources. To be fair and ethical, you must acknowledge your debt to the writers of those sources. If you don't, you commit plagiarism, a serious academic offence (one that might well keep you from earning an IB Diploma).

- Pssst: the above was plagiarized from *A Pocket Style Manual*, p. 107.





## Past stumbling blocks...

- Not keeping/taking good notes from the onset.
- Not reading the assessment criteria until writing the outline.
- Not consulting a wide variety of sources.
- Excessive Citations...
  - This is **ibid disease**, and it indicates that you've relied too heavily on one source and/or failed to do extensive enough research.

# What do I need to cite?

- You must cite all direct quotations and any ideas borrowed from a source.
  - Summaries and paraphrases
  - Statistics and other specific facts
  - Visuals such as cartoons, graphs, and diagrams

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# What do I NOT have to cite?

- Common Knowledge

- Information your readers could easily find in general sources
- Information you see repeatedly in your reading
- For Example:
- Martin Luther King won the Nobel Prize in 1964.
- Emily Dickinson published only a handful of her many poems during her lifetime.





# In-text Citations

MLA recommends a system of in-text citations:

- the source is introduced by the signal phrase that names its author.

Legal scholar Jay Kesan points out that the law holds employers liable for employees' actions such as violation of copyright laws (312).



## Entry in the list of Works Cited:

Kesan, Jay P. "Cyber-Working or Cyber-Shirking? A first Principles Examination of Electronic Privacy in the Workplace." *Florida Law Review* 54.2 (2002): 289-332. Print



Pssst: the above was plagiarized from *A Pocket Style Manual*, p. 107-108.



## Final thoughts...

- The Media Center will be hosting a research seminar every Tuesday afternoon during Impala Time.
  - Show up, present your research quandaries to the group and find answers together.
- Good research papers can be creatively written and interesting to read.
  - Do your best to communicate your passion for your topic to your audience (graders, peers, teachers, me...)
- Breathe. This is going to be far easier than you think. 😊