

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at Cobourg Collegiate Institute



Extended Essay Guide

What is the Extended Essay?

The Extended Essay (EE) is one of the 3 core components of the IB Diploma Programme. It is an in-depth study of a focused topic chosen by the students from the approved list of subjects. Typically the EE is done on one of the subjects the student is taking within the IB Programme. It is intended to promote high-level research and writing skills, intellectual discovery, and creativity. The EE is independently motivated and is about directed learning.

The advice given in this guide is general. Please consult the subject specific guide for more detailed and specific advice relating to your topic.

Step 1: Choose your research area

-Select an area in which you have a strong background

Group 1: English

Group 2: French

Group 3: History or Socio-Cultural Anthropology

Group 4: Biology, Chemistry or Physics

Group 5: Mathematics

Group 6: Music

Words of advice: You are strongly advised to choose an essay subject that is offered as part of your IB Diploma

Step 2: Select your faculty advisor

It is your responsibility to find and work with a teacher with expertise in your subject of choice. The teacher will offer you guidance, support, and feedback on your research question. You will spend between 3-5 hours with them (following the EE deadline schedule) throughout the process of completing the EE.

Duties of your faculty advisor

- i. Help refine your research question
- ii. Discuss your focus
- iii. Read and comment on your drafts. **THEY DO NOT EDIT THEM!**
- iv. Suggest a predicted grade for them
- v. Conduct a Viva Voce (Exit interview)

The faculty advisor will not:

- I. Will not edit your paper
- II. Will not sign off on a paper that is suspected of plagiarism
- III. Will not sign off on a paper where you have not consulted with them well in advance of the due date (this is a process over a period of time)

Step 3: Start the writing process

- What preparatory reading should you do ahead of time?
- How will you gather material, research?
- What citation style will you use?
- Set achievable deadlines for various components
- Refine your research question
- Meet with your advisor throughout
- Edit your work
- Finalize and Submit

ADVICE:

- Start early, leave lots of time, and be prepared for things to potentially go wrong
- Do not ignore the assessment criteria
- stick to your deadlines
- only collect relevant material
- Cite carefully, do not plagiarize
- Be critical of internet sources
- Don't simply describe or report. Argue, and use evidence
- Don't simply repeat the introduction in the conclusion
- Do not cite sources that are NOT used.
- Record sources AS you research, do not do it after the fact.

Research Question

- Should be able to be answered in 40 hours
- Needs to be clearly stated in the introduction and on the title page
- Related to the chosen topic
- You should acquire research through investigation
- Use evidence to support your question
- Avoid questions that are too narrow or too broad, as this will be difficult to answer properly
- Most subjects require the research question to be written as a question
- Answers to the question must be analytical rather than descriptive
- DO NOT USE MATERIAL PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED AS PART OF ANY OTHER ASSESSMENT.

Word Count

- 3200-4000 words
- Includes (introduction, the body, the conclusion, and quotations)
- Does not include (acknowledgements, table of contents, maps, charts, diagrams, annotated illustrations, tables, equations, formula, calculations, citations, references, footnotes/endnotes, bibliography)

Presentation of the Essay

- Title page
- Table of contents (all pages should be numbered)
- The Essay
- Works Cited page
- Appendices (if needed)

Reflections:

Throughout the process you will be asked to reflect on your progress. The depths of the reflection demonstrated that you were engaged in the learning process. This engagement provides evidence that you grew as a learner during the process. Reflections must be documented on the “Reflections on planning and progress form”, and is part of your assessment.

PLEASE REFER TO THE SUBJECT SPECIFIC GUIDES FOR DETAILED AND SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS