

Theory of Knowledge Summer Assignment 2017-2018

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The Extended Essay is an independent, self-directed piece of research, culminating in a 4,000-word paper. As a required component, it provides practical preparation for the kinds of undergraduate research required at the university level and an opportunity for students to engage in an in-depth study of a topic of interest within a chosen subject. Participation in this process develops the capacity to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate knowledge. Emphasis is placed on the research process:

- formulating an appropriate research question
- engaging in a personal exploration of the topic
- communicating ideas
- developing an argument

You will be supported throughout the process with advice and guidance from a supervisor, and you have nearly a year to complete it. You are responsible for arranging all meetings with your supervisor and for meeting all required deadlines.

Consult the following links for important information and tools for completing your Extended Essay. *Trying to write your essay without reading these documents carefully would be akin to trying to cross I-4 in rush hour traffic blind folded.....it will not end well!!*

- ManageBac—in order to maximize the points that you can earn from your EE you must engage with the ideas, suggestions and instructions that are clearly stated in the documents you have at your disposal on ManageBac under EE - “files” the two icons you MUST read carefully are:
 - Extended Essay Rubric
 - Extended Essay Guide: The two vital elements in the guide that you MUST read before you begin your essay plan/outline are:
 - The subject guide relevant to your essay.
 - The assessment criteria section (a detailed version of the EE Essay Rubric)
- [EE Advice to Students.pdf](#)

YOUR SUMMER WORK IS AS FOLLOWS AND WILL BE DUE UPON THE SECOND DAY OF TOK CLASSES:

- 1. In your senior year, much emphasis will be placed on planning before you write! Compose a typed, outline/progression chart (min. of two typed pages-double spaced, 12 font, Times New Roman) of your essay. You may Google “formal outline” or use the chart below.**

Progression charts: outline your key theses that you believe fully respond to your research question. This allows you to visually plan how to write the essay and organize its sections into relevant sub-headings.

A partial sample of a Progression chart follows:

RQ: To what extent was British public opinion after WWI the major contributing factor behind Britain's policy of appeasement in 1938?

Thesis statement 1: Britain chose appeasement in 1937 due to the public outcry over the horrors of the First World War.

Possible sub-heading: Public opinion
(**show related support, the effect, and resources you will use**)

Thesis statement 2: Britain chose appeasement due to concerns that its military forces were not adequately prepared for another conflict.

Possible sub-heading: Military preparedness
(**show related support, the effect, and resources you will use**)

- 2. Then, and only then, using your outline/progression chart as a map/guide, draft your introduction (follow the rubric criterion for an introduction!) and first body paragraph (1500 words min.)**

As you draft your essay you must demonstrate that you have:

- Shown a considerable knowledge base about your topic.
- Indicated strong evidence of investigation by using a variety of quality resources.
- Cited your sources (IB does not prescribe a particular citation style, but the English dept. uses MLA.
- Created reasoned arguments to support your ideas
- Analyzed data, information, and ideas with your own "voice."
- Evaluated the material you have introduced to your essay.
- Used language appropriate to your subject. Subject based language and terminology is excellent. Pretentious language used to impress rather than illuminate will not gain extra points!

The outline and the 1500 words will compose a majority of your first nine-week grade for TOK.