**IMPORTANT EXTENDED ESSAY INFORMATION**

Extended Essay Subjects

IB provides a variety of discipline areas in which you may write your Extended Essay. You should consider carefully based on your interests and resources. You may select an Extended Essay topic from the following group, with the caveat that if the course is not taught at RHS/IB, you must develop some understanding of theory in that discipline before writing your paper. You should contact one of the teachers indicated in your area of interest and speak to him/her immediately.

Biology (experiment) Chemistry (experiment) Classical Languages Computer Science Environmental Systems (experiment) History (more than 10 years old) Language A (must be a literature paper) Language B (literature paper in 2nd language) Mathematics Music Philosophy Physics Politics Psychology Visual Arts World Religions

Fields, West, Wilson Fields, McDonald Youngblood Fields Fields Bell, Harrington, J. Williams, Young Isom, Sindhu, S. Williams Hughes, Rios, Sullivan Fraser, Funk, Kiser J. Williams Freeman, J. Williams, S. Williams, Youngblood Fraser, Kiser, Stroud Bell, J. Williams Freeman, Funk Distefano, Milne Bell, J. Williams

Be careful in your subject choice. Explore two or three disciplines before selecting one. Speak to one of the faculty advisors to make sure that you understand the parameters of each paper. Look at the guidelines, and speak to one of the faculty advisors in that area. Once advisors reach their limit for papers, in most cases about five, they will not take any more. Make sure you have an Assessment Guideline, complete with assessment criteria, before you leave for the summer. While you may use outside advisors for specialized content, you must still have an IB teacher to complete the paperwork for IBCA and sign necessary paperwork.

Once you select your advisor, you are responsible to that advisor for the following:

* Notification if you change your discipline area, your topic, or your research question.
* Notification if you cannot make a date for a meeting that the two of you have agreed upon.
* Meeting any agreements that the two of you have agreed upon relevant to your way of working together.

Dr. Joe Williams must also be notified if you change your discipline area so that another faculty member may be assigned.

Below are absolute limits to our submission of papers to IBCA:

* We will not submit papers that have not been submitted at least **once** before final submission to an advisor. That **once** must be the day you return to school in August.
* We will not submit papers that are **fewer than 3500 words long**, with the exception of math or science research, which tends to be shorter, at least 2500 words.
* We will not submit papers without your IB candidate number, word count, works cited pages, or abstracts. Your IB candidate number will be available when you are registered for exams, so that requirement will be completed after the due date for the essay.
* We will not submit papers that do not contain proper citations and a bibliography.
* We will not submit papers that rely entirely on internet sources.

**Style Manuals**

The use of the appropriate style manual is necessary for your paper. Most of these can be found online in basic form. The most common manuals include:

Language A, B MLA or Modern Language Association

History , Humanities, Arts, Music, Religion Turabian

Psychology APA or American Psychological Association

Sciences CSE or Council of Science Editors

Directions for writing an abstract are also online. You should write that document after you have completed your paper. Draft 1 must include an abstract and a bibliography.

**Questions Students Often Ask:**

**May I change my topic?** Yes, but only before the first draft is turned in on August 22. You must not change the discipline area or topic without discussing the change with your advisor and Dr. Joe Williams. Choose carefully in the spring of your junior year and you will be less likely to change later.

**What happens if I don’t complete the requirements that must be completed before the end of May?**

You and your parents will be invited to a conference with Dr. Joe Williams and your advisor, and your continuation in the program will be discussed. That delinquency will be reevaluated when your semester grades come out in June and your IB SL exam score is posted in July. If you are at the minimum requirements for your IB and your course grades, and your EE is not proceeding as required, we will consider asking you to exit the program.

**What happens if I fail to turn in a first draft in August?** Your advisor may refuse to continue working with you, we will hold a parent conference to review the documents you have signed, and you will be put on probation. One condition of probation is that you may be denied participation in extracurricular events until the paper is turned in. If your grade point average is also hovering around a 2.5, you may be asked to leave the program.

**What happens if I don’t turn in the final draft in October?** If you have not turned in your first draft before the due date of the final draft, you will not be registered for IB exams, and you may be required to exit the program at the end of the semester. If you do not turn in a second draft, your first draft will be used as your submitted essay.

**How do I know how these papers are graded?** In the IB office we have the assessment guidelines for each subject area. It is your responsibility to obtain the appropriate one for your discipline. Dr. Joe Williams will make these available for your convenience during April and May.

**What are appropriate sources for my paper?** Wikipedia is not an acceptable source, nor is generally any other encyclopedia, for this paper. You should use a variety of academic texts, journals, or interviews for your works cited in this paper. There are acceptable sources online, but those should not be your only sources. You have three college libraries in Tallahassee; use them.

**IB Psychology E.E. Do’s and Don’ts of Extended Essays**

Do:

* Be careful not to plagiarize
* Choose a topic for which a substantial number of academic references are available
* Find your resources **before** you finalize your question.
* Write a focused research question that is explicitly formulated and well expressed.
* Include analysis and evaluation.
* Consider more than one side of an argument – make sure that there is a discussion relevant to your question.
* Mention the need for further research and unresolved questions within your conclusion.
* Cite your sources accurately – and do not list sources that you have not cited in your paper.

Don’t:

* Choose a topic without looking for resources first!
* Choose a topic that is too broad for an essay of 4000 words.
* Conduct your own experiment, interviews, surveys, or observations.
* Write a descriptive essay.  These begin with words like “What” or “Which”.
* Write a short conclusion of only 3 – 5 sentences.
* Exceed the word limit.