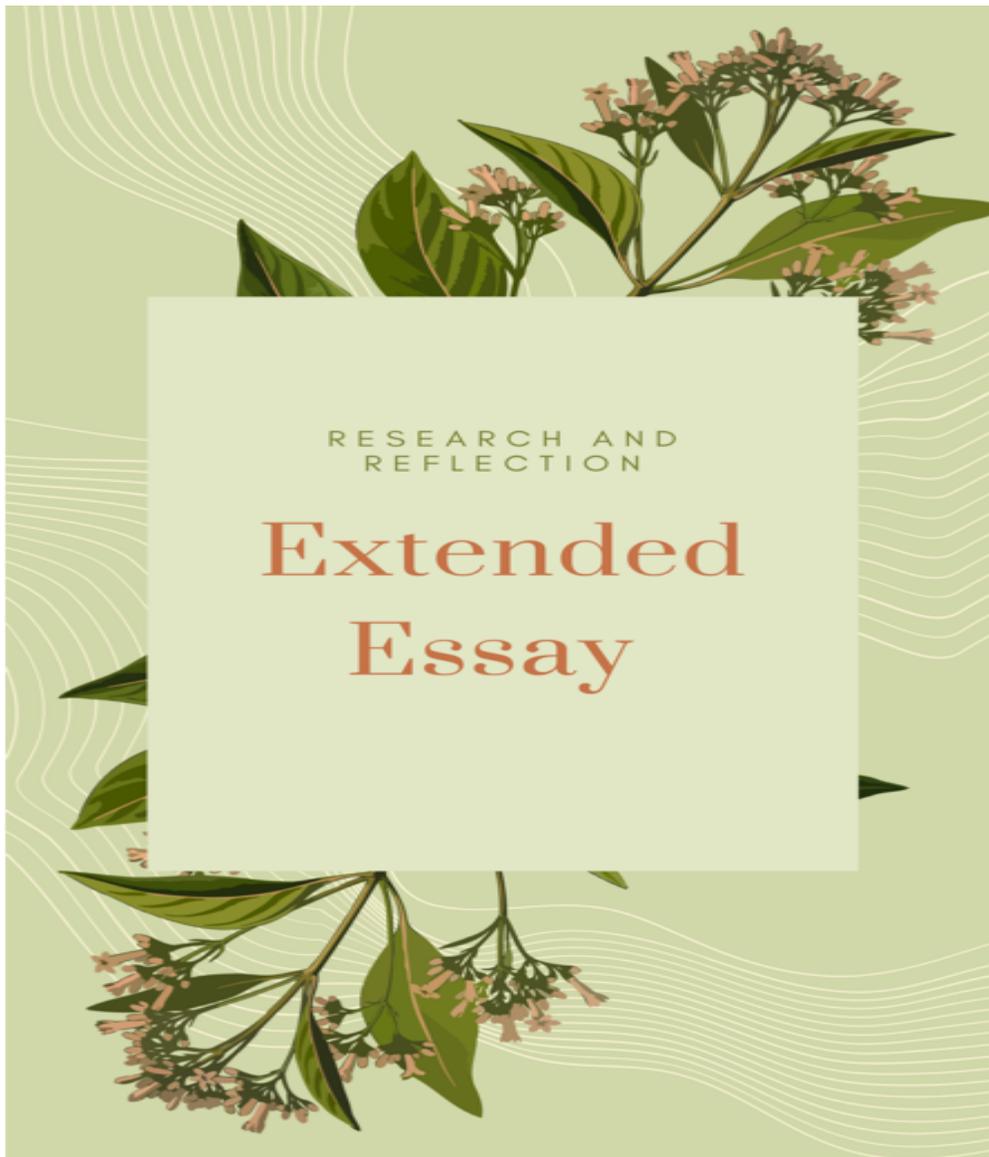


SHAWNEE MISSION EAST



EXTENDED ESSAY HANDBOOK

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Extended Essay Overview

The Extended Essay (EE) is an extended research essay that spans your junior and senior year.

- Diploma: 3,000 - 4,000 words total
- Certificate: 2,000 words total

Overall, the EE represents:

- Diploma: 40 hours of independent research
- Certificate: 20 hours of independent study

*** Diploma Students are required to have a SM East Mentor ***

FAQs:

The Extended Essay: FAQ What is an extended essay?

It is a 3,000 - 4000 word, in-depth, study in a specific IB subject.

Is it compulsory to write the Extended Essay

Yes, If you do not complete your Extended Essay (or it does not meet the minimum standards), you will not receive your IB Diploma. Shawnee Mission East requires you complete an Extended Essay or Senior Paper to obtain the Shawnee Mission Diploma.

Must my Extended Essay be written in one of my examination subjects?

No. However, it is *strongly recommended* that you select a topic from one of your Higher Level subjects. Other subject areas may be chosen; however, it is your responsibility to connect with a teacher who is both willing and able to act as a supervisor in that subject area. If you are not currently enrolled in a course in the subject area from which you choose your Extended Essay topic, you must have a solid knowledge base in that subject area. In general, you are 'wisest' to choose a topic in an area that you are currently studying at the Higher Level.

Is my Extended Essay 'worth' anything?

Yes. As noted above, if you do not submit an Extended Essay, or if your Extended Essay does not meet the minimum requirements, you will not receive your Diploma. As well, your assessment on your Extended Essay and your TOK essay and project are combined into a points matrix. You may qualify for up to three points which are added to your total IBscore.

How will my Extended Essay be evaluated?

Your Extended Essay is evaluated externally by the IBO. You should become familiar with the Evaluation Rubric and refer to it as you write your paper.

How much time am I expected to devote to my Extended Essay?

You should anticipate that the process, from inception to inclusion, will require approximately forty hours. As well, you will spend two or three hours consulting with your supervisor.

What is the role of my Mentor?

Your Mentor will meet with you and discuss your topic. He/she will engage in conversation with you and will provide guidance. As well, you will submit your drafts to your Mentor. When you have completed your submission draft, your supervisor may choose to provide you with one page of comments; he/she is not permitted to write on your draft, nor is he/she permitted to edit your draft. Your Extended Essay, in its final form, is your responsibility. You must also submit your final copy to turnitin.com for an originality check.

How do I select a Mentor?

Your Mentor must be a licensed teacher or faculty member in the building.

Please note: when asking a teacher to be your Mentor, be sure to go to him/her in person! Many teachers will have several students asking them, so they will likely agree to the IB Students who ask respectfully and in person! Reality check: Teachers will say NO if they have too many Mentees and/or if they don't think the IB Student will be responsible during this process, so be sure to put your best foot forward!

How many Mentors/ how many students do they have each?

Currently, for the 2020-2021 school year, there are 12 Mentors at Shawnee Mission East. On average each Mentor has approximately 2 mentees (minimum 1, maximum 4).

What is the *viva voce*?

Viva voce is an interview with your Mentor; it is the conclusion of the process. You will have the opportunity to discuss the challenges and triumphs involved in writing the Extended Essay and, perhaps more importantly, to reflect upon what you learned about your subject (including the 'further questions' which are now in your mind). This interview will be scheduled for approximately fifteen minutes.

What must my final submission include?

- Title Page
- Table of Contents
- Extended Essay
- Bibliography

What will I learn from writing the Extended Essay?

You will have the opportunity to explore an interesting self-selected topic in depth. You will develop your research skills and, if applicable to your subject area, your investigation skills. As well, you will improve your presentation skills as you will be required to use citations and to prepare a bibliography. These skills will be useful in your post-secondary studies.

EXTENDED ESSAY TIMELINE

JUNIOR YEAR			For a GRADE?
Date/Time period	What is Due	Who to give it to	
November	Choose a SUBJECT AREA (see EE Guides on ManageBac) Begin research to see if your area of interest will work	EE Coordinators	No
December	Choose a Mentor (turn in contract) Work with your Mentor to develop a workable Research Question!	EE Coordinators	No
Mid February	Research Question	In class In ManageBac for DP	YES
Early March	(DP) Meet with Mentor Assignment: Write down your Research Question and create a list of <u>credible</u> sources (DP) IB rewards diversity in sources: journals, books, databases, interviews, etc.	EE Coordinators and Mentor	YES

SPRING FINAL EXAM	Hypothetical MLA Outline with quotes Diploma Students (DP): Be sure to complete your <u>First Reflection</u> (under Planning and Progress Form in ManageBac)	Ms. Anderson	YES
SENIOR YEAR	*****	*****	*****
August	Regroup / Game Plan FULLY Update ManageBac!	Mentoring Teacher	No
Early September 2:45 - 8:00pm	WORK DAY! Library 2:45 - 8:00pm	EE Coordinators and Mentoring Teacher	YES

How to begin choosing a topic:

Extended Essay Idea Starters...

IB Learner Profile (and a few others):

<p>What is something you learned about that actually intrigued you to research beyond the classroom? (Inquirers)</p>	
<p>What is an area in which you feel exceptionally smart? (Knowledgeable)</p>	
<p>What is an area that you've figured out a solution to make the current situation better? (Thinkers)</p>	
<p>What is something that made you talk non-stop? (Communicators)</p>	
<p>What is something that morally outraged you? (Principled)</p>	
<p>What is a topic/subject that opened a whole new world to you? (Open-Minded)</p>	
<p>What is something that broke your heart when you learned about it? (Caring)</p>	
<p>When is a time you experienced failure and had to make changes to then find success? (Risk-Takers)</p>	

When is a time that you had to rely on others? (Balanced)	
When was a time that you realized your beliefs are different from your peers? (Reflective)	
What is something that disturbed you?	
What is something that puzzled you?	
What is something that made you think you could do this for a career?	
What is a CAS experience that truly touched you?	
What is a CAS experience that changed you?	

Steps to Developing a Research Question:

Choose a subject and topic that is of interest.

Deciding on a subject and topic that is of interest and in which you are personally invested is important if your motivation is to be sustained throughout the process. You should be able to identify, in a broad sense, what it is that you are interested in and why.

Carry out preliminary reading.

After deciding on a topic of interest, you should undertake some general reading around the issue. Questions you must consider at this stage are:

- What has already been written about this topic?
- Was it easy to find sources of information?
- Is there a range of different sources available?
- Is there a range of views or perspectives on the topic?
- What interesting questions have started to emerge from this reading?

Consider the emerging questions.

You should now begin posing open-ended questions about your general topic. These questions will usually be framed using the terms “how”, “why” or “to what extent”.

Sample research questions

The following table gives guidance on the difference between unclear and unfocused research questions and those that are appropriately clear and focused, lending themselves to in-depth research.

Unclear, unfocused and unarguable research questions	Clear, focused, narrow research questions lending themselves to in-depth research
What was the impact of Ho Chi Minh’s allegiance to Lenin?	To what extent was nationalism the guiding factor in Ho Chi Minh’s adoption of Leninism in 1920?
What is the history of Chinese theatre?	How does the legacy of Mei Lan Fang contribute to modern Jingju?
How important is chlorophyll to plant life?	What is the effect of different concentrations of kinetin on leaves aging and the biosynthesis of chlorophyll?
How can the US government’s spending policy be reformed?	To what extent did the rising COE prices affect the demand for new and used cars by the consumer population and hence affect the revenue generated by the Singaporean economy for the period 2012–16?

An important note:

A question that is unclear or too broad will result in a narrative overview of the issue or event being discussed and provide little scope for analysis and reasoned argument. The result of this is that examiners will not be able to apply the range of marks available in the assessment criteria, particularly in relation to criterion C (critical thinking).

EE Command Terms:

Once you have a Category and research question in mind, please use the following Command Terms to figure out the best way to phrase your EE research question:

Account for...

Analyze...

Assess...

Calculate...

Compare/Compare and Contrast...

Define....

Describe...

Discuss/Consider...

Distinguish between...

Evaluate...

Examine...

Explain...

How...

Identify...

Outline...

Summarize/Sum up...

To What Extent... (should be a specific %)

What...

Why...

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Extended Essay General Scoring Guide:

Overview

Criterion A: focus and method	Criterion B: knowledge and understanding	Criterion C: critical thinking	Criterion D: presentation	Criterion E: engagement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic • Research question • Methodology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context • Subject-specific terminology and concepts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research • Analysis • Discussion and evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure • Layout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process • Research focus
Marks	Marks	Marks	Marks	Marks
6	6	12	4	6

Total marks available: 34