Project Activity Log

**Learner Name: Thomas Piercy Learner number:**

**Centre Name: Centre Number:**

**Unit Name: Extended Project - Dissertation Unit number: P301**

**Teacher Assessor:**

**Proposed project title** “All foods are salads, soups or sandwiches”: to what extent does classification theory agree?

This form should be used to record the process of your project and be submitted as evidence with the final piece of work.

You may want to discuss:

* what you have done (eg, from one week to the next)
* if you are working in a group, what discussions you have had
* any changes that you have or will need to make to your plans
* what resources you have found or hope to find
* what problems you are encountering and how you are solving them
* what you are going to do next

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| **Date** | **Comments** |
| **3/11/22** | **Since beginning the EPQ we have been introduced to how the project is structured and what question titles should look like. We discussed how to make initial questions fit better to the style of the EPQ by 'exploding the terms'. I am still struggling to find a question in the areas that I am interested in, with an appropriate title and scope.** |
| **11/11/22** | **In the last EPQ lesson we organized our EPQ folders on OneDrive and got our workbooks that contain lots of information for completing the EPQ. In this lesson, we looked at places to look for research and whether sources are reliable as well as some examples of good resources for academic writing. I am thinking of looking at classification theory as a topic however there is still some difficulties within this, especially in the domain of finding enough sources** |
| **15/11/22** | **We have officially started gathering research now (although I had already been reading a few sources) and I have been starting to fill in parts of my project proposal form. In terms of sources, I have found a fair number on JSTOR, and I have been using the references in the back of articles that I read to find similar articles or related work. The main issue I see arising at this point is whether the project is meaningful enough to get approved or if I will be able to blend the serious research with the -somewhat less serious – overall question: looking at salad theory** |
| **22/11/22** | **I have started organizing and grouping my research papers together into folders on my OneDrive so that I can clearly see which things I want to read, which I already have read, and which are most valuable to me. I am splitting my research across 5 main groups to each contribute some part of my final dissertation. I have started a reference list and a document to loosely note down key information from each of the papers that I read** |
| **29/11/22** | **I have been doing some more work on my project proposal form and have started to fill in some of the sections in prose as a first draft. I have been reading more documents although generally the number of key ideas I am finding in each of them diminishes with every paper I read. I would be happy with maybe another 10 key sources to cite from but realistically I could make do with 5. Some of the material I am finding difficult to access but typically - unless there are some other important concepts elsewhere in the paper – I am taking this to mean it isn’t an appropriate level of text to read and by extension, shouldn’t be heavily relied upon.** |

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| **Date** | **Comments** |
| **06/12/22** | **I have found that it is easier for me to digest material when it is presented in alternate forms other than reading (especially for the longer documents) so I have started investing time into finding applications that can convert the papers into audiobooks that I can listen to. It takes a lot of time to setup but once it is recorded then it is much quicker than me reading by myself** |
| **13/12/22** | **I have been working on filling in all the boxes on my project proposal form ready for submission on Friday. I have found it a little bit difficult to fill in the time plan because at this point, I am not entirely sure how long everything will take so I have had to fill it in with my best guess. I have intentionally left around 2 weeks of float time to account for situations where something takes me longer than I initially expected so that I can submit comfortably in the deadline** |
| **15/12/22** | **My project proposal form is almost filled in except for the chosen title box as I have yet to have my 1-1 meeting about my topic to refine ideas to the point of a workable question. After I fill this in, my proposal form will be submitted, and Mr. Westwood will review it.** |
| **17/01/23** | **Over the Christmas period, my project proposal form was submitted, and all necessary changes were made. In the most recent lessons, we have been looking at evaluating sources for validity and reliability as well as touching on how the research review works and looking at starting to write one.** |
| **24/01/23** | **I have started writing my research review – outlining what sources I’ve looked at as well as the general topic areas and why. I have been using the CARS model to evaluate source validity and using this to talk about the influence certain sources have over my dissertation. We have also started looking at the bibliography as a way of noting down all sources that have been used and how these should be laid out** |
| **09/02/23** | **In today’s lesson we had a small presentation from a year 13 student who had already completed their EPQ, and we got the opportunity to ask them questions about it. I was specifically interested in the idea of getting primary research through asking an expert in the current field and am considering attempting to contact an author of some particularly influential papers to find out more. I was also interested by the idea of setting small goals to get a sense of achievement and to hopefully prevent some of the stumping that can occur in a project of such a length** |
| **27/02/23** | **Lately I have been working on my research review as well as writing up a proper plan for my dissertation and tracing out each of the sections that I need to complete. I have also done this for my research review as I find that it is much easier for me to write if it is broken down into lots of small segments** |
| **08/03/23** | **I have been doing more work on my research review and finished one of the sections. Unfortunately, the section that I looked at was only a small sample and it has already taken me research review over 1000 words. I still have 4 more sections to complete including my largest one so I will definitely go over the recommended word limit. I am having to consider shortening some of my sections so that I don’t exceed the guide too much.** |
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