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| ***Time*** | ***What I have done this week*** | ***How is this going to help with the project*** | ***What should I do next*** | ***Skills developed this week*** |
| 11/11/19 | Started the whole project, I have read most of the handbook, have a rough idea of what my topic should be. | A start for the project. | Look up some more facts and statistics related to my topic and try to narrow it down to be relatively detailed. | Some researching skills and some independent thinking. |
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| 18/11/19 | After the first meeting with the mentor I now have a much clearer idea for my title and what I should research next. Have started to fill in the VTT and PPR forms. The topic will be ‘to what extent do the geographical differences in Sichuan and Jiangsu provinces result in their different macroeconomic performances.’ | Now have a clear idea of how to do EPQ. | Start to do research on some statistics for the two areas online and have a better idea of how big the gap between the two provinces is. | Research skills and skills to think like a researcher, for example how to narrow the topic down, consider the question from several prospectives in order to have a more detailed plan of what to write in the essay. |
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| 25/11/19 | This week I have done some research with the internet as a source, now I have a better idea of how well Jiangsu and Sichuan provinces are doing in terms of economic growth. I also had the second meeting with the mentor, I reported some research I’ve done and now I have a better idea of what specific things I should look at next. | Now I have started the research properly and have an idea of the development gap between Sichuan and Jiangsu provinces from the data I’ve found, for example, GDP, PPP GDP, unemployment rate and so on. | Next I should look at some other statistics that reflect the economy of the two areas, for example the literate rate, the makeup of the GDP and many other indices that can reflect the area’s level of economic development. | More researching skills, and also discovered new economic terms, for example, PPP GDP and int’l USD. |
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| 2/12/19 | This week I have done more research on the macroeconomic indices of the two provinces, I’ve also created forms to compare the data, an interesting statistics was the area of floor space under construction, this value is usually proportionate to the rate of growth of the GDP, but increases in an even faster rate, this is because of the accelerator effect. This data suggest how much investment is being made in the area, and investment is one of the factor of aggregate demand. In the third mentor meeting this week, I went through the VVT and PPR forms with the mentor. | Now the research has got more sophisticated and this will help me to add more theories into the essay, so my analysis will be more convincing and have a better chain of reasoning. | For next week it’s better to move on to the physical geographical condition of the two places, and at the same time, I should also find the effect the geographical features have on the area’s economic development. For example, if the area has a long coastline, there will be more ports so there will be more trading going on. | I have further developed mt researching skills and also learnt more economic theories and found a good website for data researching called knoema. |
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| 7/12/19 | This week I have done more research on the past history and geographical locations of Jiangsu province, I think these are potential factors that would influence the macroeconomic performances of an area. I found an useful academic article on jstor, the article listed some details of the urbanization process in the YRD cities, and seven of the YRD cities belong to Jiangsu province. There are some very useful statistics as well. | This surely gives me part of the reason why the economy in Jiangsu province has been growing this fast, but I need to compare it to Sichuan province in order to link it with my topic. | Do more analysis on the article found, try to find articles like this but describes the urbanization process in Sichuan province so I can compare the two. | It was my first time to use the website Jstor, I found this website really useful and I also learnt how to site my references right, there are instructions of this on Jstor as well, I will use this website a lot more in the future, I think I’ve developed my researching skills this week. |
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| 25/12/19 | After a break from EPQ I continued my research, this week I did more research on the county-level cities in Jiangsu and Sichuan provinces, which contributes a significant proportion of GDP in the two areas. I have got some data and haven’t started to add analysis yet, for which I will need more information than the value of GDP. | This links to the academic article I researched on last time which talks about the annexation policy, I assumed the annexation policy works better in Jiangsu province, and maybe one of the reasons is the geographical conditions in Jiangsu is more suitable for the annexation policy. | Next I will prepare some questions for an interview I planned in the beginning of the project, I hope with the answer I get from this interview I can have a better understanding of how the business is in Sichuan province. | Didn’t really develop completely new skills. But practiced data researching skills and how to present data better. |
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| 4/1/20 | This week I finished the questions in the interview and prepared two versions of the questions, one in Chinese and one in English, I will decide the actual time soon. | Doing this interview helps me to get some insight of the business world, I will have a better view of the market in Sichuan province, quotes from the interview will be very useful in the evaluation paragraphs in the dissertation. | Discuss with the businessman and decide on a time that I can do the interview with him, ask for permission and record the whole interview, then summarize useful notes from the interview. Start to create a plan for the dissertation and make it clear that what should be written in each paragraph. | Developed some question-making skills, it’s actually not easy at all to make good questions, I tried my best to include as many aspects as I could in the questionnaire. Another important skill I developed is the ability to link the data I obtained from the source to my points, I think this ability is very useful when it comes to social science researches. |
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| 14/1/20 | I have finished the interview with the businessman from Sichuan province, and I have got a recording of the whole interview after permission. Last Sunday I had the first mentor meeting after the Christmas holiday, I found that I need to create some graphs in my research notes, so I can show the trends of the two economies’ development better. This requires me to do more research. I’ve created a clear and detailed plan for my essay as well. | Some of the results I got from the interview was actually quite surprising, I realized my initial assumption have quite a few limitations, I also discussed this problem with my mentor, I’ve decided to show this change in opinion in my essay. The plan of the essay is very crucial, it works as a guide for me, with the plan, I can do more specific researches and prepares me better for the next part of the EPQ project, which is the writing of the actual essay. | Next I need to create some bar charts, line graphs on the computer to visualize the data I’ve found, I need to do some research on which app I should use and how to use it. Maybe start to write some of the essay as well. Finally I need to start completing my mid-project evaluation document. | Practiced some oral skills during the interview, I was able to ask some decent questions and take some good notes, I think this is a big improvement for me. I’ve also discovered that the world is quite complicated, assumptions made based on pure instinct are usually incorrect. After more research, I discovered that the development gap between Jiangsu and Sichuan province is not entirely due to their geographical differences. |
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| 22/1/20 | This week I did some research on the first part of my dissertation, I looked up some information about the landscape and climate of the two provinces. Besides some research I also finished half of the mid-project review document. | The research I did was really helpful for my dissertation writing, I also wrote some analysis after every extract I found from the source, which is the Encyclopedia Britannica. After some more research and an interview which I’m planning to carry out during half term holiday, I think I’m ready to write the whole dissertation. | For next week I will have an extra meeting with my mentor to go through the mid- project review form, I’ll finish the forms first before the meeting. Finally I will start to plan for the interview and contact the interviewee. | Further developed some researching skills, also learnt something about how to write balanced analysis when given some information. In addition I learnt some more economic terms such as original capital.(reasons why different areas have different levels of original capital and to what extent it can affect the current level economic development of an area) Finally, I’ve also learnt some geography terms and it will be great to add these new concepts into my essay. |
| ***Time*** | ***What I have done this week*** | ***How is this going to help with the project*** | ***What should I do next*** | ***Skills developed this week*** |
| 1/2/20 | This week I’ve finished the mid project review from, and I’ve found some more data relevant to the transports in Jiangsu and Sichuan province, and I’ve done some evaluation on the importance of the two provinces in China in terms of transports hinges. | After finishing the mid-project review, it means that the project is at a new step now, I should shift the focus from research to writing the dissertation now. The information about the transport in the two provinces will probably be the last research I do for my project, but there will be some follow up data analysis and manipulation like plotting a graph to show the trends etc. | For this month my goal is to finish the first draft for the dissertation, following the time line I set for myself in the beginning of the project, submission of first draft to mentor should be 2nd of March. This leaves me four weeks in total, I will also meet with my mentor weekly, and the target is to finish 1250 words roughly every time we meet. | In this week I didn’t develop many new skills, but finishing the mid-project review and going through it with my mentor helped me with my self -evaluation ability to some extent. I also developed some analysis skills as well when I evaluate how the geographical conditions of the two provinces have affected the transports in the two provinces, for example, the number of long distance intercontinental flights in the biggest airports in the two provinces. |
| 8/2/20 | This week I have started to write my dissertation, the essay writing process has roughly meet my plan, I wrote about 1150 words, I have included some images and diagrams as well. I also found some more data to fill in some gaps in the original introduction, so I updated my source evaluation document too. | It’s not a bad start for the essay writing process, I have set an example of how the rest of the essay should be , there need to be some diagrams, explanation to the graphs and plenty of data, detailed analysis and a strict chain of reasoning in every point. | For next week I’m going to go through things I’ve written with my mentor. I will continue to write as well, and during the writing process, I will do some more research to back up some of the points. I plan to finish most of the first part of my dissertation by the end of next week. | Developed some more researching skill when collecting the information for the essay, also improve the essay writing skill, eg. How to structure a long paragraph, how to form a chain of reasoning, how to write detailed analysis from the information I have and how shall I link it with my opinion. |
| 16/2/20 |  |  |  |  |