

The Philanthropy Project IB CAS Alignment

The Philanthropy Project: A Guide for Educators Connecting to the CAS Programme of the International Baccalaureate Organization

By Cathryn Berger Kaye, M.A., CBK Associates

Is The Philanthropy Project compatible with the CAS Programme? Absolutely!

The Philanthropy Project is designed to promote student engagement in meaningful **service learning** experiences that:

- Begin by guiding students to identify their interests, skills and talents
- Deepen understanding of societal issues through action research
- Raise questions of meaningful ways to become involved in contributing to a cause or taking an initiative for the common good
- Assist students in considering how they can apply their interests, skills and talents in ways that promote collaboration, identification of authentic needs, meaningful action, and a monitoring of the progress made
- Encourage students to be well-prepared with partnerships and plans as they launch their service idea
- Guide students in considering which form or forms of action will be most appropriate - direct service, indirect service, advocacy service, or research service
- Provide a platform for thoughtful reflection in a variety of ways all throughout the process as they accumulate significant moments that call them to reflection
- Inspire students to find purposeful ways to demonstrate their learning and their service to others

This process that follows **the five stages of service learning** is identical to what is represented in the new CAS Guide as the **five CAS Stages**. This is the process that students are expected to follow as they participate in "S" (service) and also serves as a template for their CAS Project.

By following The Philanthropy Project sequence, CAS Coordinators and CAS Advisors can observe how students are maximizing their CAS experience. Be certain to review the downloadable documents on the Curriculum Center of The Philanthropy Project website. These will also support and guide CAS students through the stages as follows:

Investigation

Personal Inventory, similar to the Personal Profile referenced in the CAS Guide, is used to uncover students' interests, skills, talents, areas for growth, and a time they have helped someone and been helped. Ideas for using this document are included on the website; similar resources can be found on the IBO Teacher Support Materials for CAS.

Mapping the Community guides students to use the action research methods of media, interview, survey, and observation, as they discover both the community assets and needs that will assist them in making appropriate decisions about what constitutes an authentic need.

Preparation

What Governments & Organizations are Doing About ____ allows students, once they have identified and authenticated the need during investigation, to review what else is being done to mitigate or eliminate the problem on local, regional, national, and international levels.

The Philanthropy Project IB CAS Alignment

Action

Find Your Cause! Choose Your Action! further confirms students have thoughtfully connected their interests, skills, and talents with a need that matters, and leads them to consider which form of action would be most impactful. *What's Your Elevator Speech?* allows students to take their idea and prepare their message that conveys their purpose and their accumulated knowledge to others in a concise and intentional manner.

Ongoing **Reflection** and **Demonstration** opportunities are integrated into The Philanthropy Project platform, noted on the students' campaign page with guiding questions and ideas for making reflection meaningful, and demonstration having as broad a reach as the student intends to have.

Using The Philanthropy Project platform may encourage and excite students through the use of technology to make public their ideas and efforts. They can also observe and become inspired by the efforts of other teens who are eager to see how they can participate in meaningful ways - in and outside of the CAS programme.

Also, keep in mind that The Philanthropy Project encourages students to participate over time, and to engage in various kinds of service. When, for example, students select raising funds as their choice of action, the Campaign Handbook reminds students that fundraising is most impactful when combined with direct, advocacy or research service.

The Philanthropy Project is being launched at an opportune time for students in CAS, and is a reliable and easy-to-use way for students to move through the Service in CAS with confidence and connection with other youth striving to find purpose and accomplishment.

What about Creativity and Activity?

CAS students may find that the idea they launch on The Philanthropy Project requires significant **Creativity** in designing plans, preparing resources and material, and even in the delivery of their *action*. Similarly, depending on what students choose to accomplish, this may also involve **Activity**. For example, if students decide to collaborate with the community on a community garden and design an artistic visual for the layout of the garden, this may contribute to Creativity. And if you have ever spent two hours gardening, you know this is definitely Activity.

CAS is meant to be a joyful experience for students. Being part of The Philanthropy Project may be an ideal way for your students to discover their excitement and purpose and the joy that is CAS.

Cathryn Berger Kaye, M.A., CBK Associates, was a contributor to the development of the new CAS Guide. As an education consultant, Cathryn provides onsite consulting with schools and conference keynotes and presentations around the world. She is the author of eight books including *The Complete Guide to Service Learning*. Learn more at www.cbkassociates.com or write Cathryn at cathy@cbkassociates.com.

THE PHILANTHROPY PROJECT
A Guide for Educators