



Extended essay

What you need to remember while working on your first research paper



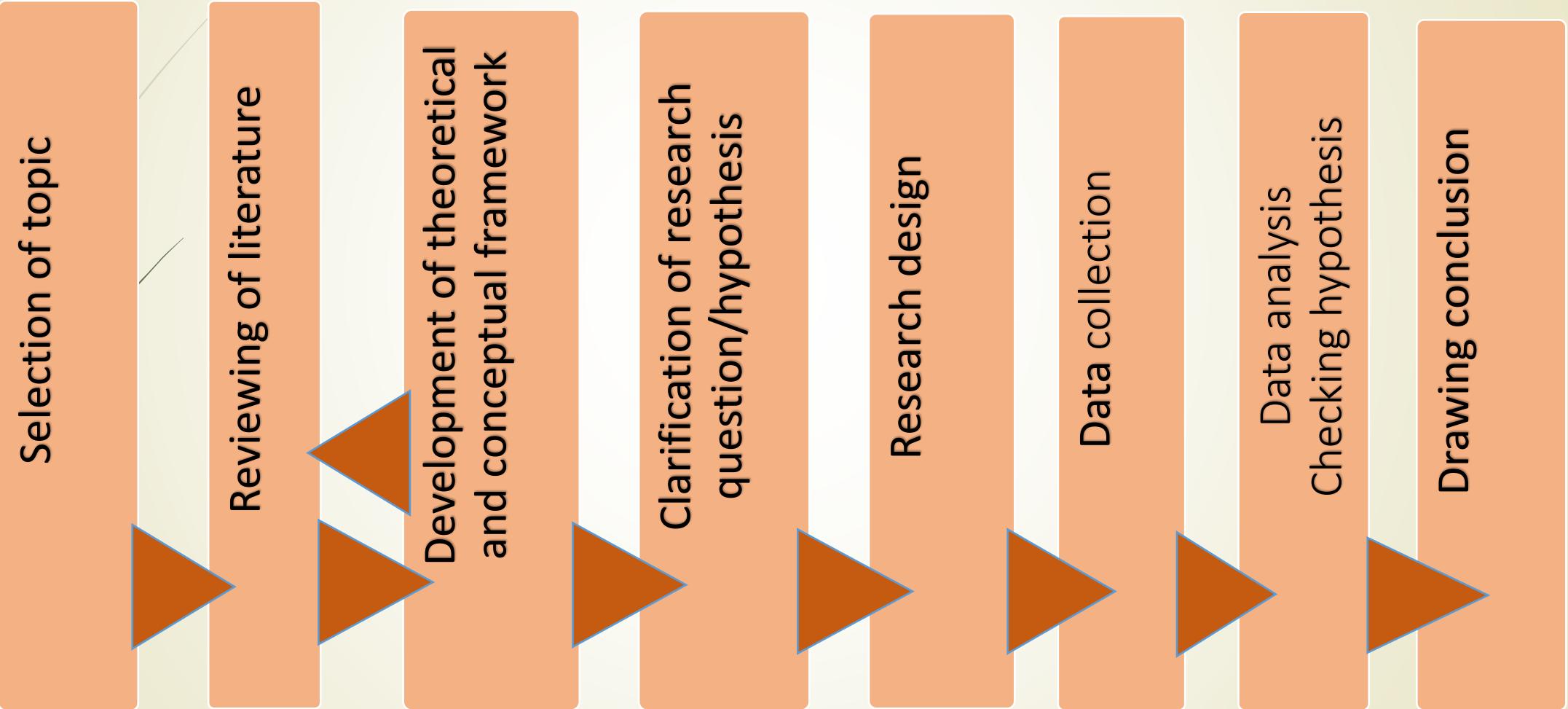
EE goal

- ▶ engage in independent research with intellectual initiative and rigour
- ▶ develop research, thinking, self-management and communication skills
- ▶ reflect on what has been learned throughout the research and writing process
- ▶ promote academic writing skills

Key features of EE

- ▶ compulsory for all IB students
- ▶ D grade or higher compulsory to be awarded the Diploma
- ▶ externally assessed (with the grade for ToK contributes **up to 3 points** for the IB Diploma)
- ▶ helps prepare students for success beyond the Diploma Programme
- ▶ piece of independent research on a topic chosen by the student
- ▶ Presented as a **formal** piece of sustained academic writing
- ▶ containing max **4,000** words accompanied by a reflection form of no more than 500 words
- ▶ result of approximately **40 hours** of work by the student.
- ▶ students supported by a supervision process (3–5 hours)- **three mandatory reflection sessions** should be recorded on the [Reflections on planning and progress form](#).
- ▶ the third and final mandatory reflection session is the **viva voce** (a concluding interview with the supervising teacher)

Follow the research process



Important to remember

- ▶ EE must follow the academic writing principles found in [Academic honesty in the IB educational context](#) and [Effective citing and referencing](#).
- ▶ Your reflection in the extended essay is a critical evaluation of the skills you develop during the process (remember to document them in *the Reflections on planning and progress form* accessed under criterion E):
 - ▶ critical thinking
 - ▶ decision-making
 - ▶ general research
 - ▶ planning
 - ▶ referencing and citations
 - ▶ specific research methodology
 - ▶ time management.
- ▶ If you research a sensitive topic, the IB's [ethical guidelines](#) should be consulted.

- Every piece of reference must be included in citations and bibliography (books, articles, internet sites, interviews, surveys etc.)
 - When citing information from **print sources** add the **page number**
 - When citing information from **electronic sources** add the **date of access**
 - Electronic sources must have title and author, not only URL
- Internet material must be cross-checked against other sources. Read [Internet literacy guidelines](#)
- The following formatting is **required**:
 - the use of 12-point, readable font
 - double spacing
 - page numbering
 - no candidate or school name on the title page or page headers
- Graphs, diagrams, tables and maps are effective only if they are clearly labelled, can be interpreted with ease, and are described/commented on in the text.

- ▶ EE title can be different from the RQ, but the RQ has to be clearly stated in the introduction.
- ▶ If a student conducts interviews for the research, interview transcripts should be included in the appendix.
- ▶ Essay introduction should include:
 - ▶ Explanation why this topic is relevant and important to a student.
 - ▶ Clearly stated research question
 - ▶ Methodology of the research (written in *future tense*).
- ▶ Essay conclusion should include:
 - ▶ Summary of the research outcomes
 - ▶ Student's reflection on the limitations of the research
 - ▶ Suggestions for further research
- ▶ Remember to **refer to your RQ throughout the essay** and use metalanguage.

Word count: max 4000 words

Included in the word count	Not included in the word count
The introduction	The contents page
The main body	Maps, charts, diagrams, annotated illustrations
The conclusion	Tables
Quotations	Equations, formulas and calculations
Footnotes and/or endnotes that are not references	Citations/references (whether parenthetical, numbered, footnotes or endnotes)
	The bibliography
	The <i>Reflections on planning and progress form</i>

Assessment

- ▶ Combination of formative assessment (the [Reflections on planning and progress form](#)) and summative assessment (the extended essay itself)
- ▶ Criteria - **Total marks available: 34**

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

- ▶ [Grades: A - F](#) (failing grade)

How to save time and effort

- ▶ Create an extended essay document from the start with its chapters, subchapters, bibliography etc.
 - ▶ Six required elements of the extended essay:
 - ▶ Title page
 - ▶ Contents page (added at the very end of the writing process)
 - ▶ Introduction
 - ▶ Body of the essay
 - ▶ Conclusion
 - ▶ References and bibliography
 - ▶ Study citing principles and, whenever using a new source, cite it in the final correct form and add to your bibliography right away
 - ▶ Create an EE folder where you collect all useful material with references, addresses ect.

Before 1. meeting with your supervisor

- ▶ Read the [subject-specific section of the Extended essay guide](#) for economics/global politics
 - ▶ pay particular attention to the nature of the subject and the treatment of the topic
- ▶ Undertake further background reading and begin to gather information around your area of interest.
 - ▶ Think of possible topics and questions that you can consider for further research
 - ▶ Consider the availability of reliable and valid sources for the topic
 - ▶ Record it in your Researcher's reflection space
- ▶ Begin developing a research proposal (a MindMap® of ideas, an annotated article or preliminary bibliography) Answer the following questions.
 - ▶ Is my topic appropriate for the subject I am considering?
 - ▶ Why am I interested in this area and why is it important?
 - ▶ What possible questions have emerged from my initial reading?
 - ▶ Are there any ethical issues that I need to consider?
 - ▶ What possible methods or approaches might be used for research in this area and why?