

Exemplar 2: Studies in language and literature

REFLECTIONS ON PLANNING AND PROGRESS

Supervisor name											
Candidate session number	0	0									
Candidate name											
School number						0	0				
School name											
Examination session (May or November)						Year					

Candidate: From May 2018, please refer to the Extended essay student guide when completing this form. This form is to be completed by the candidate during the course and completion of their EE. This document records reflections on your planning and progress, and the nature of your discussions with your supervisor. You must undertake three formal reflection sessions with your supervisor: the first formal reflection session should focus on your initial ideas and how you plan to undertake your research; the interim reflection session is once a significant amount of your research has been completed; and the final session will be in the form of a viva voce once you have completed and handed in your EE. This document acts as a record in supporting the authenticity of your work.

The completion of this form is a mandatory requirement of the EE for first assessment May 2018. It must be submitted together with the completed EE for assessment under criterion E.

Supervisor: You must have at least three reflection sessions with each candidate, one early on in the process, an interim meeting and then the final viva voce. Other sessions are permitted but do not need to be recorded on this sheet. After each session candidates must record their reflections and as the supervisor you must sign and date this form.

Reflections on planning and progress	Candidate comments	Date	Supervisor signature
First reflection session	I picked my topic, which was post-traumatic stress disorder. Then I decided to pick the subject area, which was English, with the help of my supervisor. I have decided to do two books that have similar settings, which is war. This first discussion really helped me understand what I needed to do in terms of research. Since my subject area is English, there don't have to be many other sources to research, but I have to make sure the books I pick have enough elements to compare. I will start by looking at <i>Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close</i> by Jonathan Safran Foer and <i>The Things They Carried</i> by Tim O'Brien and analyse PTSD in characters and how the authors reveal themes relating to PTSD.		

<p>Interim reflection</p>	<p>When I went to this meeting I knew that one thing that needed to be changed was my research question. I had learned this about half way through reading my second novel because I realized there wasn't much to write about if I kept my original question, so I kind of went backwards with my topic selection. People suffer from PTSD after a traumatic event, so the fact that the majority of the plot takes place during the war doesn't quite work. I discussed this with my supervisor and we came up with "How does literature present the effects of war on the mind?" My supervisor also introduced me to the English database on Gale, and helped me find resources on the exact topic I'm now researching—an article on <i>Mental Health in Slaughterhouse 5</i> was really helpful and I think I will switch to this book instead of using Foer's novel.</p>		
<p>Final reflection: viva voce</p>	<p>Throughout the EE process, I did stick to my basic topic (PTSD). However, the research questions I originally planned to use didn't work out, because I didn't have enough literary features to write about. In the end I used a quote sheet we had been given in class. This was probably the most useful tool for writing the essay. Essentially, it helped not only with organizing my thoughts, but in determining whether or not the quote would be relevant to the research question. Although the process in writing the extended essay was very tedious and rigorous, it was also a very valuable experience. Relating specifically to my topic, I really enjoyed analysing PTSD in literature. I have always been interested in how the brain functions and disorders associated with the brain. I chose the topic and the novels because I wanted to gain more knowledge about how the brain is affected by external factors such as war, as well as improve my English writing skills at the same time (killing two birds with one stone!). Regardless of the marks I will eventually receive, whether they are good or bad, I am glad to say that this experience will greatly help me at college in the future.</p>		

Supervisor's comments:

R was a pleasure to work with. She came to each meeting on time, and she always had good questions and was excited about her content and the process of creating an extended essay. She took time to thoughtfully decide which books she wanted to examine and felt that in the end she made good choices for what she hoped to accomplish in her essay. Like most students R struggled with allocating the needed time to write and revise her work. When she handed in her draft she knew she had some weak areas that needed to be rewritten and strengthened and this was the point where she needed my help the most, so that she was able to reassess her work and make changes before the final submission date. R walks away from this experience with a better understanding of how to work on a long-term project and the tools to apply that knowledge in future.

Candidate's declaration

This declaration must be signed by the candidate; otherwise a grade may not be issued.

The extended essay I am submitting is my own work (apart from guidance allowed by the International Baccalaureate).

I have acknowledged each use of the words, graphics or ideas of another person, whether written, oral or visual.

I am aware that the word limit for all extended essays is 4,000 words and that examiners are not required to read beyond this limit.

This is the final version of my extended essay.

Candidate's signature	Date
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Supervisor's declaration

This declaration must be signed by the supervisor; otherwise a grade may not be issued.

I have read the final version of the extended essay that will be submitted to the examiner.

To the best of my knowledge, the extended essay is the authentic work of the candidate.

I spent hours with the candidate discussing the progress of the extended essay.

Supervisor's signature	Date
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