

Extended Essay Guide FEASIBILITY STUDY

Due : March 13, 2020

What: Your Extended Essay Feasibility Study

Directions: On a separate sheet of paper, type your Feasibility Study, making sure to address each of the questions that follow. Your responses should be in paragraph form, they should not simply be a list of the questions and answers.

Format: Your Feasibility Study should **not exceed one typed page**. It may be single-spaced; however, it should not exceed 500 words. Typical length is 300-500 words typed in 12 point Times New Roman font. All EE paperwork should have 1' margins.

Heading

Your First & Last Name

EE Subject Area

Please state your extended essay subject area (History, Physics, Visual Arts) clearly at the top of the page.

Topic

What is the scope of your area of interest?

By this point, you have likely identified a general area of interest *within* your Extended Essay Subject Area. You are now ready to focus your general area of interest into a manageable topic. Write a sentence or two detailing the narrower focus of your area of interest within the subject area. For example, if your EE Subject Area is History, your general area of interest might be the French Revolution. The next step is to determine what aspect of the French Revolution you would like to research.

At this point, if you do not have a copy of the specific Subject Area Guidelines for your EE subject area, they are available at www.stonypointib.com.

Approach & Feasibility

Based on your preliminary research, you now should address two questions.

1. What is the approach you plan to take to address your topic?

Consider the approach as a statement of intent that indicates which broad process you are going to use: an experiment, a literary analysis, etc., followed by more specific information.

Your specific Subject Area Guidelines list examples of "Approach". Some examples taken from the EE Guide are given below:

History:	Topic:	<i>Varying Interpretations of the Salem Witch Trials</i>
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Approach: Background reading is undertaken to enable identification and explanation of two dominant theories as to why the trials took place. The merits of the two theories are appraised using data obtained about the accused and the accusers.

Physics: **Topic:** *The efficiency of electromagnetic damping*
Approach: An experimental approach is taken. The energy budget of a coil-carrying glider going through magnetic braking on a linear air track is followed by comparing the mechanical energy lost to the thermal energy generated in the coil.

Visual Arts: **Topic:** *Cultural influences on Pablo Picasso's work*
Approach: An investigation of the extent to which selected images in Picasso's work may have been appropriated from other cultural sources.

2. How feasible is this topic?

- a. How does this topic allow you to satisfy the assessment criteria for your chosen subject area? Please double check your Specific Subject Area Guidelines.
- b. How do you know that the topic is appropriate in scope? What types of sources are available?

Is it too broad, too specific? (Remember, you will continue to narrow your focus when you determine your research question.) Can this topic be effectively treated within 3500-4000 words?

- c. Is the topic one that can be researched effectively?
 - i. Is there enough information on your topic? Can you find academically appropriate sources for your topic? (This includes academic journal articles, books, reliable journalistic sources, reliable data and studies, historical documents and other sources as specified by your subject guide. It does not usually include general encyclopedia articles and general interest web pages).
 - ii. Are necessary primary and secondary sources (as defined by your subject guide) available for your topic?
 - iii. Has your topic already been researched extensively? How?
 - iv. Will you be able to shed new light on this topic? How?
 - v. For experiments, do you have adequate time for the successful completion, data gathering, data analysis, etc?
- d. Does your topic require analysis, discussion, interpretation or evaluation?
- e. Does this topic matter to you? Do you think this topic is interesting enough to spend the next nine months researching it? Why?

REFINING YOUR TOPIC

Once you have read some background information, you can refine your broad research topic into a narrow, focused topic. The sooner you can develop a broad subject into a focused topic, the sooner you can shape your research into a finished paper. On the other hand, if you start out too focused or detailed, you may have a hard time finding enough sources to write an acceptable paper.

Research Tip: A topic is probably too broad if you can state it in four or five words. You can narrow a subject or topic by adding words that will eventually help you make a claim in your thesis statement or help you ask a question if you are developing a research question. Consider using words like conflict, description (describe), contribution (contribute), or development (develop). If you narrow a topic by using nouns derived from verbs, you will be one step closer to a claim that could be challenging enough to keep you and your evaluator interested.

Narrowing a Subject to a Manageable Topic: A topic that covers too much material is a common problem for students. Depending on your interests, a general topic can be focused in many ways. For example, if you want to write a paper on government funding for the arts, consider the following questions:

- What do you already know about this subject?
- Is there a specific time period that you want to cover?
- Is there a geographic region or country on which you would like to focus?
- Is there a particular aspect of this topic that interests you? For example, public policy implications, historical influence, sociological aspects, psychological angles, specific groups or individuals involved in the topic, etc.

Create a table (or grid) to use as a template for narrowing your subject into a manageable topic.

General Subject	Government funding of the arts
Time Span	1930s
Place	USA
Event or Aspects	New Deal, painting, art, artists
Narrowed Topic	Federal funding of artists through New Deal programs and the Works Progress Administration contributed to the country's sense of wellbeing during the Great Depression.

Topics that are too narrow: Think of parallel and broader associations for your subject if you need a broader topic that will be easier to research. Sometimes a topic may be too new and sources to your

research questions may not yet exist. For example, if you want to do a paper on the effect of deforestation on Colombia's long-term ability to feed its citizens, consider the following questions:

- Could you examine other countries or regions in addition to Colombia?
- Could you think more broadly about this topic? Give thought to wider topics like agriculture and sustainable development.
- Who are the key players in this topic? The government? Citizens? International organizations?
- What other issues are involved in this topic? For example, how can natural resources be allocated most economically to sustain the populace of Colombia?

Specific Topic	What is the effect of deforestation on Columbia's long-term ability to feed its citizens?
Alternative Focus	Agriculture, sustainable development
Alternative Place	South America
Alternative Person or Group	United Nations and its subgroups
Alternative Event or Aspect	Birth Control
Broadened Topic	How can the United Nations encourage South American countries to employ sustainable development practices?

Research Tip: You have likely narrowed your topic too severely if you cannot easily find resources.

Work Space: Practice narrowing your topic in the space below.