**Introduction to the Nature of the Extended Essay**

**And the Process of Subject Area Selection:**

1. **What is the Extended Essay?**

**First let’s think about what it is NOT”.**

**It’s not a factual report,**

**not a book report,**

**not a narrative or descriptive story,**

**not a biography**

**not an expository essay to explain your personal feelings**

**about something,**

**If you do any of the above, it will lower your score!**

**So what is the extended essay?**

**It is an investigation of a question or issue**

**on a topic in a subject area of your choice.**

**This investigation should include:**

**A research question stated clearly.**

**A thesis or hypothesis offering a possible answer to your research question.**

**An argument presenting several points of view (At least two).**

**These points of view should be substantiated by cited quotations.**

**These quotations should be explained, interpreted, questioned, argued, and verified from more than one point of view.**

**A conclusion, clearly stated, summarizing findings of your argument and explaining ways in which they support or refute your thesis or hypothesis.**

**REVIEW ANSWERS TO QUIZ STUDENTS FILLED OUT BEFORE I CAME.**

**GETTING TO KNOW THE EXTENDED ESSAY GUIDE (ANSWERS)**

**Directions: As you read your guide, make a not of the following prevailing ideas by filling in the blanks below.**

1. **What are the titles of the 11 criteria by which your essay will be scored:**

**RESEARCH QUESTION INTRODUCTION**

**INVESTIGATION KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING OF TOPIC**

**REASONED ARGUMENT ANALYTICAL & EVALUATIVE SKILLS**

**USE OF LANGUAGE CONCLUSION**

**FORMAL PRESENTATION ABSTRACT**

**HOLISTIC JUDGMENT**

1. **List 7 sections to be included in your “Mock-up Copy”:**

**TITLE PAGE ARGUMENT**

**ABSTRACT CONCLUSION**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. **Name 4 things to include in your introduction:**

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE, RESEARCH QUESTION, THESIS STATEMENT**

**SPECIFIC BACKGROUND APPROPRIATE TO YOUR TOPIC**

**CONCEPTS THEORIES AND TERMS**

**IMPORTANCE OF TOPIC**

**HOW YOU WILL INVESTIGATE YOUR QUESTION**

1. **What 6 things should be included in a bibliographic listing?**

**AUTHOR’S NAME, TITLE OF SOURCE, EDITOR, EDITION, NAME OF PUBLISHER, PLACE AND DATE OF PUBLICATION**

1. **On what 2 sets of pages should you look if you want to score your own essay**

**PAGES 4-5, AND PAGES 27-32**

1. **What 4 main suggestions does the Guide give you for preparing your first draft:**

**INSERTING YOUR QUOTES,**

**PRESENTING MULTIPLE POINTS OF VIEW,**

**INCLUDING THE 8 WONDERS OF ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION,**

**AND USING SUBHEADINGS.**

**B. How to succeed: Remember these things:**

**1. \*AVOID INTERDISCIPLINARY ESSAYS!!!**

**2. Write an investigation—not a report!**

**A report tells information… An investigation asks a question and finds information to answer it.**

**3. Make sure your essay is complete. That it has all seven elements that you filled out in the quiz you did before I came in.**

* **KNOW YOUR SUBJECT AREA**

1. **Introduction Subject Areas: ( See Guide Page 51)**

**There are many interesting possibilities here. But choose your subject area carefully.**

**Each subject area has its good things and its bad things. Before you choose a subject area get to know the things about it that can help you and the things about it that can cause you problems.**

1. **Language Arts : Compare two literary works.**

***Possibilities:* This is the least difficult subject area to choose, because you know it. Consider Barnes and Nobel classic editions.**

***Pitfalls:* You must focus on a literary work. (Novel, short story, play, poem)**

**Avoid using more than one book originally written in a language other than English.**

**Avoid focusing on the writer’s life,**

**Avoid choosing a non-fiction book.**

1. **Visual Arts:** **Compare two (or more) pieces of visual artwork.**

***Possibilities:* Choose this if interested in art.**

**They require you to include material from a history and a socio-cultural prospective. This gives you more leeway regarding an interdisciplinary essay.**

***Pitfalls:* Avoid focus on an artist’s life**

**Avoid focus on general trends in art, or art history.**

1. **History: Compare views from at least two sources on an event or issue**

***Possibilitie*s: Lots of interesting topic choices.**

***Pitfalls:* Avoid focusing on facts. Selected event must be at least 10 years old.**

**Avoid focusing on telling a story of an event. Avoid focusing on “What ifs”.**

**Compare likenesses and differences in sources’ accounts of events,**

**Sources’ accounts are like novels in literature.**

**But avoid choosing sources that are not historical. (i.e. historical novels, etc.)**

**D. Subject Areas we don’t recommend: (Based on possibility of success)**

**Math**

**Sciences (Biology and Chemistry)**

**Economics**

**ITGS**

**Computer Sciences**

**Theatre Arts**

**Psychology**

**World Religions**

FOR NEXT TIME:

**\*ONCE YOU KNOW YOUR SUBJECT AREA—SHOP FOR A TOPIC!**

**Sometimes it helps to look at possible topics before you choose a subject area.**

1. **Selecting a topic:**
2. **Peruse topic list**
3. **Barnes & Nobel classics list for literature**

**We will be looking more closely at these things next time.**

**In the interest of review -- on the following page is a list of topics you can look over to help you select something that might be of interest to you.**

LIST OF POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR THE EXTENDED ESSAY

ACCORDING TO SUBJECT AREA

LANGUAGE ARTS I: Basically you must compare and contrast some literary element(s) in two books, either by the same author or by different authors.

Possible ideas for topics

\* Comparison of similar kinds of characters in two or more books according to the author’s use of (imagery) description, or by specific characters thoughts, behaviors, actions or responses.

\* Comparison of similar works (ie. Gone with the Wind vs Pride and Prejudice, Their Eyes were Watching God,vs Beloved vs The Color Purple, Pride and Prejudice vs Sense and Sensibility) in terms of the authors’ use of specific literary techniques: such as imagery, point of view, narration, flashback, foreshadowing, sarcasm, satire, suspense, etc.

\* Comparison of motifs of solitude, time and death (ie. Poe’s Masque of Red Death vs Lovecraft’s Outsider or the poetry of Emily Bronte vs Emily Dickenson)

\* Comparison of symbols in two works :( ie. Color and time in Great Gadsby vs Dillan’s poem “Wasteland”.

\* Portrayal of issues such as racial conflict:( ie. In works by Richard Wright and James Baldwin, or Their Eyes Were Watching God vs To Kill a Mockingbird).

\* Comparison of authors’ message and style: (ie Hemingway’s Farewell to Arms vs Slaughterhouse-Five) regarding war and society.

\* Anatomy of a Hero’s quest: (ie The Three Musketeers vs The Scarlet Pimpernel or William Wallace in The Scottish Chieves)

\* A comparison of the symbolism of dance as shown in Jane Austen’s books and Dorothy Parker’s short story, “The Waltz”

\* A comparative study of ”bad, bad girls”:( ie Madame Defarge in Dickens’ Tale of Two Cities; Lady de Winter in Dumas’ Three Musketeers; Morgan Le Fay in Sir Thomas Mallory’s Tales of King Author, (or The Once and Future King); The Countess of Mar in Jane Porter’s The Scottish Chieves. How do these authors make us hate these women?

\* A comparative study of boys “going against the grain: (ie Tom Sawyer in Mark Twain’s Tom Sawyer vs Huck Finn in Huckleberry Finn. How does the author mix the humor and impishness of Tom Sawyer in contrast to Huck Finn’s grappling with the serious issues of life.

\* A comparison of “making sense of it all” ( ie Dicken’s “coming of age” leading character David Copperfield vs Salinger’s Holden Caulfield).

\* Comparison of religious themes in The Life of Pi vs Robinson Crusoe

\* Comparison of “outlandish outlaws” (ie Robin Hood in Robin Hood or Ivanhoe vs The Three Musketeers

\* Comparing the theme of revenge in Dumas’ The Count of Monte Crisco vs Dickens’ Tale of Two Cities.

\* Comparing moods of desperation in Edgar Allen Poe’s short stories, “Descent into the Maelstrom” vs “The Pit and the Pendulum”

\* Comparing the theme of determination as portrayed in Ernest Hemingway’s old man in his short story, “The Old Man and the Sea”, vs Herman Melville’s Captain Ahab in Moby Dick.

\* Comparing irony and/or imagery in O Henry’s short stories, “The Gift of the Magi” vs “According to Their Lights” and/or “The Social Triangle”.

\* Comparison of the portrayal of insanity in Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s short story, “The Yellow Wallpaper” vs Guy de Maupassant’s short story, “The Horla”.

\* How to kill a heroine! Comparison of two plays on Joan of Arc: (ie by George Bernard Shaw, vs, Anouih, vs Shiller.

Go on to the following page for topic suggestions in the subject area of History:

HISTORY: Basically you must compare and contrast **various sources’ interpretations of historical issues and/or events** in any of the following ways:, Compare a primary vs a secondary source’s interpretation on the same event or issue, interpret official documents in light of an event or issue, investigate various sources’ points of view on an event or issue by comparing how sources’ points of view changed over time; compare/ contrast two secondary sources’ varying interpretations of the same event; compare/contrast sources on a local version of an issue with sources views on the same issue on a national level.

* **Avoid “what ifs**” (what if the event happened another way), and make sure your chosen event is at least **10 years old.**

Possible topic ideas:

\* Varying sources on UN intervention in a Genocide (Ie Burundi, Ruanda, Combodia, Bosnia, etc.

\* Varying sources on the Iran Contra Affair in light of “Executive Privilege”

\* Varying sources on Flagler’s Florida… was he a hero or villain as a developer in Florida?

\* Varying sources on invasions of Russia Hitler’s vs Napoleon’s

\* Varying sources on reasons for the collapse of the Mayan civilization

\* Varying sources on Senator McCarthy--- ruthless bully or misunderstood patriot in the light of the “balance of powers”

\* Varying sources on the sinking of the *Lusitania* vs the *Titanic* in terms of where to cast blame

\* Varying sources on issues surrounding the War in Vietnam (ie Agent Orange, the Tet Offensive, etc.)

\* Varying sources on the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis how attitudes have changed over time.

\* Varying sources on the role of newspapers in the Spanish American War

\* Varying sources on Hamilton vs Jefferson: Conflicting attitudes towards government during Washington’s presidency

\* Varying sources on the US government vs the Branch Davidians crisis. How well was it handled.

\* Varying newspaper accounts of the massacre at Columbine High… how accurate were they in comparison to the accounts elicited from eyewitnesses?

\* Varying sources on the justification of the bombing of Dresden by the Allied powers In World War II.

\* Varying sources’ views on the positive and negative effects of General Robert E. Lee’s leadership and actions during the Civil War in terms of the outcome of the South’s ultimate defeat.

\* Varying sources’ views on Pope Pius XII’s actions regarding the Nazi’s treatment of Jews in World War II in terms of his complacency or resistance.

\* Varying sources’ interpretations of the degree to which the character known as “La Malinche” caused the Spanish success in defeating the Aztecs during the Conquest of New Spain.

\* Varying points of view on the theories concerning the cause of the 1918 Spanish Influenza Pandemic

\* Varying sources’ views on the impact of the First Crusade on the Israeli War of Independence

\* Varying opinions on the women of the Suffragette Movement as compared with the Feminist Movement and the attempts at passing the ERA amendment to the Constitution, in terms of causes, goals, and actions taken

\* Analysis of official documentation on the Kent State University shootings as compared with eyewitness reports to determine the justification of the shootings of students by the Ohio National Guardsmen in 1970.

\* Analysis of varying opinions on whether the actions and policies of the FDR Administration prolonged or relieved the downward trends of Great Depression of the 1930s.

\* A comparative study of three leaders in the country formerly known as Rhodesia to determine how the leadership styles and philosophies of Cecil Rhodes, Ian Smith, and Robert Mugabe shaped the crisis in what is now modern day Zimbabwe.

\* A comparative study of ways in which Robert McNamara changed his views on the escalation of the Viet Nam War over time… according to documents from the sixties as compared to his retrospective writings and thoughts expressed in the 90s.

VISUAL ARTS: Basically you must compare and contrast specific paintings, sculpture, photographs, designs, or other visual artworks by two or more artists relative to elements and techniques used to produce them. Inclusion of relationship to historical and social trends should be referred to, but the works themselves should be the major focus of the essay. Trips to museums and interviews with artists and critics should be included as well.

Possible topics ideas:

\* Comparison of ways in which selected works by Salvadore Dali vs Rene Magritte demonstrate techniques and artistic elements of surrealism.

\* Comparison of ways in which Andy Warhol vs Kieth Haring demonstrate similar and different elements of “pop art in terms of style and technique

\* A comparative analysis of symbols shown in Bosche’s painting “Garden of Earthly Delights” in light of their religious and scientific implications

\* A comparison of architectural styles found in the Cathedral Marie-Reine-du-Monde in Montreal vs St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome in terms of their respective cultures.

\* A comparison of specific paintings from the Amarna period of Egyptian art in contrast with those involving traditional Egyptian styles.

\* A comparative study of specially selected works by Michelangelo that demonstrate his influence on specifically selected works of Raphael and Rubens as seen through the uses of the human body in movement and expression and within various compositional schemes.

\* An analysis of specifically selected artists’ works from the high Renaissance with those of the northern movement in terms of basic techniques and artistic elements used in the period.

\* A comparative study of the architecture of the Roman Colosseum with that of the University of Phoenix Stadium in terms of aesthetics and functionality.

\* An analysis of specifically selected photographs of Ansel Adams including black and white photos of Yosemite National Park as examples of his contribution to developmental techniques in photography such as the “zone system” to develop proper exposure and the ability to adjust the contrast in his final prints, as well as the skill and technique involved in producing the high resolution seen in his work.

\* A comparative study on specific examples of women’s fashions of the 1920s in contrast to the 1930 in terms of their design and functionality as well as their relationship to historical and social trends of the respective periods according to art critics and specially selected sources on the periods.

THE SCIENCES: Basically you must perform a lab experiment or personal study to investigate a theory appropriate to your chosen subject area… ie Biology or Chemistry or ITGS.

Possible topic ideas (Biology)

\* The distribution and growth of lichens on urban pavements is analyzed to determine how they are affected by sulfur dioxide and ozone levels in the atmosphere

\* The effectiveness of commercial antibacterial cleaning agents as measured by the zone of exclusion after being placed on agar plates and compared.

\* A comparative study of the best method for detecting the toxicity in shellfish is made in terms of the process of mouse bioassay and clay flocculation according to ease of use and accuracy of measurement.

Possible topic ideas (Chemistry)

\* The ratio of gases evolved at the positive electrode during the electrolysis of common salt solution is studied by analyzing the relationship between the concentration of aqueous sodium chloride solution and the ratio of the amounts of oxygen and chlorine gas that are evolved at the positive electrode during electrolysis.

\* The time it takes to brew a cup of tea using a specific commercial brand of tea leaves is analyzed in terms of the amount of caffeine that is dissolved in the drink.

\* Strawberry jellies are analyzed by paper chromatography to determine whether the jellies obtained from specified companies all contain the same red dyes.

Possible topic ideas (ITGS)

\* Primary data is gathered through interviews to examine the future of natural language interfaces to determine the extent to which it is likely that natural language interfaces will replace the keyboard in the production of office documents.

\* An Internet survey of e-learning systems is conducted highlighting methodologies used by different systems to determine if the addition of e-learning systems can improve the performance of students in mathematics.

Primary research is done by means of circulating questionnaires to network managers who use Open Source to determine whether or not the wide availability of Open Source software has resulted in improved security for networks

MUSIC: Basically you must compare and contrast at least two performances of works by the same or different artists and/or composers. “Real music” should be at the heart of an extended essay in music. This means that particular pieces of music, experienced via recordings, live performances or concerts, should be chosen as the core focus of the essay. Students should strive for a coherent verbal analysis and interpretation of one or more pieces of music in relation to a chosen research question.

Possible topic ideas:

* The influence of Egard Varese on the musical output of Frank Zappa with an investigation into the stylistic similarities between the two composers.
* An investigation into the evidence that Jesus Christ Superstar is a modern classical opera. Consideration is given to Andrew Lloyd Webber’s musical language and structures in this work with reference to other relevant music from operas of the Western classical tradition.
* A comparative study of the presence and musical significance of a recurrent motif found throughout Frederick Chopin’s 24 piano Preludes Op 28.