The Extended Essay
An Overview

Student Training
Penny Harris, EE Coordinator
Rockwall-Heath High School

Original presentation by Justin Spear
Nature of Extended Essay

- Required for IB diploma eligibility
- Externally assessed by IBO evaluators
- Roughly 3,500-4,000 words in length
- Chosen from current subjects and preferably a current focus of study
- Total assessment points 0-36, of which a grade between an A to E is awarded
- Represents 40 hours of work
- Topic agreed upon with supervisor
Nature of Extended Essay (cont.)

- Involves collegiate level, critical research
- Supervisor meetings totaling 4+ hours
- Apply analytical and evaluative skills, terminology toward subject matter
- Supervisor submits a predicted grade and a supervisor’s report to the IBO
- Concludes with the viva voce interview
- EE demands a “diverse range of sources”
Aims/Assessment Objectives

- Plan carefully, leading up to proposed topic
- Develop a thoughtful research question
- Gather, interpret, present, and argue information as it pertains to subject area
- Use the correct vocabulary and argumentative style according to the demands of the subject
- Apply analytical and evaluative skills in the subject chosen
Supervisor’s Role

- Uses knowledge in subject area to provide advice and guidance to students
- Helps define/refine research question
- Aids in the research process
- Reads and comments generally on content of rough draft
- Submits a predicted grade to the IBO
- Conducts the *viva voce* with student
- Reports plagiarism, if suspected
Your supervisor should...

- Spend 3-5 hours with you
- Work to ensure you’ve created a great research question
- Advise you on where to find materials
- Verify your sources
- Help troubleshoot when you are stuck
- Read your rough draft and discuss it at a conference
- Conduct a *viva voce* conference at end
Your supervisor should NOT...

- Conduct research for you
- Tell you what sources to use
- Write any comments on your rough draft
- Give specific advice on how to improve your draft
- Correct bibliographies or citations
- Chase you down for meetings
- Re-teach you concepts in the subject matter you should already know
Responsibilities of the Student

- Choose a topic of interest and invest the time into your research question
- Observe and follow all EE regulations, both general and specific
- Meet RHHS/Supervisor deadlines
- Communicate with your supervisor!
  - Attend meetings
  - Ask for help
  - Address emerging issues
  - Be honest and open!
Combined Role: The Iceberg Model

7/8 = Research Phase (Now-June 2015)
Student & supervisor work together to:

- Explore and discuss ideas
- Locate appropriate resources
- Discuss readings and ideas
- Develop a suitable research question
- Supervisor monitors research progress
- Represent 3-5 hours of work

1/8 = Writing Phase (Jun. 2015-Dec. 2015)

Student works independently over summer to:

- Write EE draft (due at August Boot Camp)
- Organize writing
- Revise and create final draft of essay after conferences with Supervisor
- Prepare the final EE
The Diploma Programme
The Diploma Programme
Subject-Specific Areas

Where Can RHHS Students Write Their EEs?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group 1 (English)</th>
<th>Group 2 (Spanish)*</th>
<th>Group 2 (French)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology*</td>
<td>Chemistry*</td>
<td>Physics*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
<td>Film</td>
<td>Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classical Greek/Latin</td>
<td>Mathematics*</td>
<td>Set Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Religions</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Dance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social &amp; Cultural Anthropology</td>
<td>Design Technology</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Systems &amp; Societies</td>
<td>Business &amp; Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peace &amp; Conflict Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Technology in a Global Society</td>
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</table>

*These subjects require teacher approval for student selection.
# Extended Essay Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>Research Question</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Investigation</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Knowledge/Understanding</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Reasoned Argument</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Apply Analysis &amp; Evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Appropriate Language</td>
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<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Formal Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>Abstract</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Holistic Judgment</td>
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**Total Points** 36
Extended Essay Grade Boundaries

A 29 – 36 (work of an excellent standard)
B 23 – 28 (work of a good standard)
C 16 – 22 (work of a satisfactory standard)
D 8 – 15 (work of a mediocre standard)
E 0 – 7 (work of an elementary standard)
The diploma points matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extended essay</th>
<th>Theory of knowledge</th>
<th>Excellent A</th>
<th>Good B</th>
<th>Satisfactory C</th>
<th>Mediocre D</th>
<th>Elementary E</th>
<th>Not submitted</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1 + Failing condition*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good B</td>
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*Coordinators should consult programme guide for passing eligibility.*
*Failing Condition*

“From 2010 onwards, 28 points will be required to be eligible for the diploma if a student attains an “E” grade in either the extended essay or theory of knowledge...Attaining a grade “E” in both the extended essay and theory of knowledge continues to represent an automatic failure.”

(Extended Essay Guide 2013)
Next Time…

- The EE Subject Groups in Depth
- Subject Preferences
- Supervisor Selection

Until then…

…keep a running list of questions for EE coordinator!