

EPQ

Introductory
Sessions

Looking Ahead

A series of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom-left towards the top-right, located in the lower right quadrant of the slide.

Tasks from now on:

► 1. Continue the Project Log every week.

If you are genuinely unable to work on your EPQ, e.g. when you are on holiday or are ill, then you need to have an entry for that week explaining why you did not do anything. However there should not be months of this!

Remember to go back to your initial schedule and discuss whether you are where you thought you would be and importantly to produce a new schedule if the old version is not working out. You will also need to update section 4 of the PPF when you do so – strike through the original timings leaving them visible and put the new ones in.

Note where you have or have not met the milestones.

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► 2. Update your Research Table every time you find a source

It is important to do this as you go along. You need to evaluate your sources using the Ws and to know where each fits into your EPQ. You will do this better if you do it as you go.

DO NOT forget the URLs and dates of access for web sources.

Make summary notes on the key points you want from the source. Your EPQ is not an assembly of quotes with a bit of linking text. You should only quote directly when it cannot be rephrased and genuinely adds something to your writing.

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▶ 3. Create a plan for your writing including headings and subheadings

The plan is due in the next GOL assignment.

Think about the structure you need. There are some example essay structures in the 'Dissertation Structures' document on GOL under the 'How to ...' tab. These are just some generic ideas to get you started. The one you choose should be appropriate to your chosen subject.

You should write your essay impersonally in the third person. That is instead of saying 'I will be discussing X in my essay' you write 'This essay will discuss X'. Avoid using 'I'.

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► 4a. Writing – where should you start?

Now you have a plan, where should you start?

You do not have to start with the introduction – many people write it after the rest of the essay. If you do write one to start with, be prepared to revisit it at the end.

You can begin anywhere! The ‘2000 words’ target is for any 2000 words

If you have a particular view as to which side of the argument is “right” then you should think about starting with writing the side of the argument you disagree with.

This may seem counterintuitive but it is the side you will probably need to concentrate on more, will find more difficult to do and take longer to write.

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▶ 4b. Writing - referencing

▶ You **MUST** reference as you write

It is VERY IMPORTANT to do this and not leave it until later.

DO NOT JUST PUT IN A WEB URL.

Remember to refer to the information in the EPQ Booklet.

Do not forget that there is a PowerPoint guide on GOL to using Word to help you.

‘Manage Sources’ is the easy way reference consistently and to produce a Bibliography in an accepted, correct format (add the sources as you go).

There are similar functions on the MAC version of Word and on googledocs.

APA is a system available in both Word and googledocs.

If you prefer footnotes then make sure you know how to do them properly.

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4c. Writing – what to reference

You should reference:

Facts and figures obtained from a particular source

Opinions and interpretations someone offers in an article

Quotations – Do not overquote. Quotes should only be used where they add more impact than a paraphrased version of the information. Your writing should not be a set of quotations with some linking text. You should write the content in your own words and not just quote because it is easier.

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► 4d. Writing - Single Quotes v speech marks

Use single quotes:

round expressions

e.g. the British used so-called 'gun-boat diplomacy' in the Opium Wars

round titles of books and organisations

e.g. 'To Kill A Mockingbird' by Harper Lee

e.g. 'The Times' newspaper

Use speech marks when you are quoting directly from a source:

Churchill said "we will fight them on the beaches" – N.B. quotes should be followed by a reference.

The similarity checking software we use requires quotations to be in speech marks.

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► 5. Ensure you use the time you set aside for your EPQ

You will never not be busy with other things as well. Analyse just what you spend your time on – there will be something you can easily do less of that does not compromise your A levels e.g. watch less Netflix.

You should have set aside at least 1.5 hours a week for your EPQ. You need to set a structure for yourself so you know when you will work on it and do not just put it off.

If you want better marks you should spend more time than this in most weeks.

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▶ 6. Ensure you know what and when you are to upload to GOL

You should know what you need to upload for each assignment on GOL and know when they are due.

Make sure you know how to upload your documents correctly by reading the document at the top of the upload section called 'How to Upload to GOL'

You should aim to be well-organised and meet the deadlines.

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▶ **7. Ensure you make any updates needed on your PPF.**

This is a working document so revisions to your title and changes of any kind should be visible (strike through the original so it can still be seen or use a different colour for the changes)

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▶ **8. Refer back to the resources you have been given, GOL and ask your mentor questions**

Please look at the resources in the PowerPoints, the EPQ Booklet and the other information on GOL. Please do not go straight to the internet - the information there may not be accurate.

Ask your mentor if you are unsure about anything – it is what they are there for.

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▶ 9. Similarity checking – commonly referred to as checking for plagiarism

You should be doing this next term once you have written a first draft of your whole EPQ Essay.

Please avoid internet sites claiming to do this – they may steal your work or infect your computer with a virus.

If you want to check your writing use the Draft Turnitin Upload Area. Please be patient, Turnitin is slower when there are lots of American students uploading.

Please note that uploading to other subject's assignments adversely affects your similarity score.

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- ▶ **10. The most important gain from an EPQ is not a reduced offer from a university, it is that you learn how to structure your own time to achieve a task**

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