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EE/RPPF

For first assessment in 2018

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Candidate personal code: _____

Extended essay - Reflections on planning and progress form

Candidate: 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 three reflections combined must amount to no more than 500 words.

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

First reflection session

Candidate comments:

I decided on my topic by choosing what intrigues me most about my hobby: dance. I have been dancing since I was a toddler, so telling people that my future doesn't really involve it is hard to grasp. This is because the industry is extremely strict and only accepts cookie-cutter types of personalities and appearances. Although I would love to make a living through dance, it is not realistic nor stable. This led me to wonder how these barriers could be broken... I want to explore this with the aid of the example of Misty Copeland, the first black principle dancer in the American Ballet Theater after 75 years of productions. This is interesting to me because not only was Copeland the first black main role, but she is now wanted by several dance companies. Through my research I hope to find what it is exactly that the industry looks for, but how that can change through talented people of different cultures, races, or ethnicities.

Date:

Supervisor initials



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**Interim reflection**

Candidate comments:

I've changed my research question into something that focuses more on a style of dance instead of its perception. My new topic interests me because it explores the influence George Balanchine held on ballet. I have come to the understanding that ballet is skillfully crafted and reflects time periods. What baffles me is how effortlessly Balanchine seemed to create ballets. It is hard to imagine someone choreographing works after listening to the music once. I am excited because I can apply what I am learning to my life since I am taught ballet that includes Balanchine styles. A struggle I had was rewriting my essay because my old question was not convincing enough for the subject. I had to do new research and create new drafts. However, I have been able to adjust and work on my new question effectively. Challenges that lay ahead are properly examining my question and providing good examples to support my arguments. This will be done through the use of a plethora of sources of different types.

Date:

Supervisor initials:

Final reflection - Viva voce

Candidate comments:

I feel accomplished because I was able to complete a cohesive essay that answered my research question. I spent a great deal of time researching and making sure I answered the question. With that being said, I feel like writing the essay was more difficult than I anticipated. Sometimes I was too descriptive when I should have been doing more analysis. The reason for this being I did not outline my essay before writing. If I could redo the process that is the first thing I would change. I would change the sources I used so I could have a better variety of different types and opinions. I would have made a point to work on it weekly instead of in spread out intervals. If I would have done these things, I feel like the process would have gone by smoother and more effectively. However, I do feel like I have grown and learned a lot about both the topic and myself in this process.

Date:

Supervisor initials:

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Supervisor comments:

When I was approached by the student to be a mentor for the Extended Essay I was somewhat skeptical. Not in the sense that mentoring would be difficult, but more so, because the student chose to do the EE in Dance, a subject area in which I have absolutely no familiarity. I hesitated at first, but then I decided to mentor the student upon the condition that I would have to acquire some knowledge about the subject matter by thoroughly reading the subject guide. Toward the end of her junior year I asked the student to present me with the research question, which at that time I felt was too broad and did not meet the descriptors outlined in the subject guide. I encouraged the student to refine the question so that it could be easier to interpret. Upon that agreement we scheduled our next meeting to be held during the month of June to discuss the progress of the essay.

At our second meeting (June) the candidate was able to present a variety of different sources of information and basically described (verbally) a detailed action plan that she was going to undertake before we would meet again in August where I would be presented with a first rough draft. At that time, since I did not have a physical outline of the work, everything appeared to be fine. However, during the meeting in August I noticed that the draft presented failed to meet most of the descriptors as outlined in the subject guide. I again discussed with the students that due to a series of ambiguities I did not feel like that question would lead to a good research paper. After deliberation we both concluded that it would probably be better for the students to choose a different research question altogether. This led to the choosing of the new question "How has George Balanchine's Creativity influenced the style of Ballet Dance Worldwide?".

Our next meeting was during the month of October where the student was able to present several pages of research notes and a rough draft. Over the period of the next month the student continued to refine the work both in style and in context giving me period updates on the progression. A few days before our final meeting (the Viva voce) the student presented a copy of the final draft of the Extended Essay. I read the final version and must agree that the student has done an excellent job given the difficulty encountered during the beginning of the process. While conducting the Viva voce, the student was able to answer thoroughly all the questions giving answers precisely in related context. Answers to the general questions relating to the personal growth of the student was given in a rather impressive manner. Questions relating to the content of the essay were also answered to a significant degree of satisfaction.

As I looked back on the entire process of this extended essay, I must conclude with confidence that this candidate demonstrates the essence of the IB learner profile. The candidate established herself as a risk taker by exploring an unfamiliar topic in which to pursue her research, which consequently exhibits other traits of the learner profile such as being an inquirer and a knowledge seeker. Her willingness to change the research question midway into the process, and still being able to complete the paper on time, provides evidence of the growth, resilience, courage, and determination that we as teachers admire in our IB students.



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