

IB Biology Extended Essay guide - Student planning sheets

Choosing a topic

Answer the following questions to help you choose a topic.

1. What topics interest you within the subject area?
2. What significant terms, concepts and keywords describe your topic? These terms will be keys for searching online catalogues and databases, the internet, and print resources for information about your topic. Do some background reading on the topics.
3. What IB concepts do you think would relate to your topic area / keywords?
4. What articles on your topic area can you find? Use Google Scholar: search topic areas, keywords and concepts. Try different combinations of keywords to search results.
5. What do the articles/book extracts tell you about the topic? Read the extracts. Highlight interesting passages in the readings. Make short comments – what ideas did you find interesting in the articles?
6. Choose the one topics that you are the most interested in. Discuss this topic with your supervisor.

Writing a research question

Follow steps 1-4 to help you formulate a research question.

1. Identify your independent variable, together with its range of values.
2. Identify your dependent variable.
3. Define the system that you are investigating.
4. Write your research question in the form of "How does the "IV" affect the "DV" in "XYZ"?"

EE experiment planning sheet

Research question and variables

1. Research Question

2. Independent Variable

3. Dependent Variable

4. Control Variables

Procedure (Due date: _____)

5. Materials/Apparatus (add to appendix)

6. Procedure

[illegible]

Place for sketch/diagram of experimental setup:

7. Risk assessment (add to appendix)
