Getting Started on the Extended Essay

**1. Examine the list of available subjects in your EE student manual.**

You must choose a subject from the approved subject list. The subject does not have to be a subject which you are currently taking as part of the Diploma Programme. It is however advised that you are knowledgeable in the subject and have taken a course recently, or will take a course in the near future. Examine the list of subject areas available and decide which one interests you the most.

**2. Choose a teacher to be your supervisor**

The teacher must be someone who is:

* Willing to supervise your essay
* On the Richwoods faculty
* Knowledgeable in the subject area
* Familiar with the Extended Essay process. If they are not, Mr. Bowlby will provide them with a manual and EE guidelines
* Each supervisor may only be responsible for the EE of 3 students

**3. In your chosen subject area, make a list of topics that interest you most. Discuss the potential topics with your supervisor, your parents, your friends, and anyone else who you think may provide you with worthwhile feedback.**

**4. Do some general reading on the topics you have on your list. Then ask yourself the following:**

* What data might you need to answer these questions?
* Will you have access to this data?
* Has research been done by others in this area?
* How could you go about answering the questions you have in mind?

**5. After you have done some preliminary reading:**

* Choose the topic you wish to examine in your Extended Essay
* Brainstorm ideas about how to address the issues presented in your topic.
* Come up with a list of questions and issues related to your topic and make connections between them.
* Narrow down the scope of your investigation until you arrive at the specific topic you want to use for your Extended Essay.
* Consult your supervisor for suggestions and advice as you go through this process. That is what they are there for!
* Expect to change your mind several times before you finally settle on a specific topic

Over

**6. Narrow your topic and write your research question or hypothesis. Then, formulate the argument or create the testing situation you are going to use to reach your conclusion.**

* These two elements, your research question/hypothesis and your argument or testing situation, will guide your research and provide the focus for your paper.