

MYP Personal Project Guide

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The Nature of the Personal Project

The personal project encourages students to practise and strengthen their approaches to learning (ATL) skills, to consolidate prior and subject-specific learning, and to develop an area of personal interest. The personal project provides an excellent opportunity for students to produce a truly personal and often creative product/outcome and to demonstrate a consolidation of their learning in the MYP. The project offers many opportunities for differentiation of learning and expression according to student's' individual needs. The personal nature of the project is important; the project should revolve around a challenge that motivates and interests the individual student. Each student develops a personal project independently.

MYP projects are student-centered and age-appropriate, and they enable students to engage in practical explorations through a cycle of inquiry, action and reflection. MYP projects help students to develop the attributes of the IB learner profile; provide students with an essential opportunity to demonstrate ATL skills developed through the MYP; and foster the development of independent, lifelong learners.

I. Project Aims and Objectives

The aims of the MYP projects are to encourage and enable students to:

- participate in a sustained, self-directed inquiry within a global context
- generate creative new insights and develop deeper understandings through in-depth investigation
- demonstrate the skills, attitudes and knowledge required to complete a project over an extended period of time
- communicate effectively in a variety of situations
- demonstrate responsible action through, or as a result of, learning
- appreciate the process of learning and take pride in their accomplishments

The objectives of MYP projects encompass the factual, conceptual, procedural and metacognitive dimensions of knowledge.

Objective A: Investigating

- I. I. Define a clear goal and a global context for the project, based on personal interests
- II. II. Identify prior learning and subject-specific knowledge relevant to the project
- III. III. Demonstrate research skills

Objective B: Planning

- I. Develop criteria for the product/outcome
- II. Plan and record the development process of the project
- III. Demonstrate self-management skills

Objective C: Taking Action

- I. Create a product/outcome in response to the goal, global context and criteria**
- II. Demonstrate thinking skills**
- III. Demonstrate communication and social skills**

Objective D: Reflecting

- I. Evaluate the quality of the product/outcome against their criteria**
- II. Reflect on how completing the project has extended their knowledge and understanding of the topic and the global context**
- III. Reflect on their development as IB learners through the project**

Global Contexts

Students must identify one of these global contexts for their MYP project, to establish the relevance of their inquiry (why it matters).

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ★ Identities and relationships | ★ Scientific and technical innovation |
| ★ Orientation in space and time | ★ Globalization and sustainability |
| ★ Personal and cultural expression | ★ Fairness and development |

Consider the following questions when choosing a global context for your personal project:

- What do I want to achieve through my personal project?
- What do I want others to understand through my work?
- What impact do I want my project to have?
- How can a specific context give greater purpose to my project?

Global Context	Example
Identity and relationships	Examine the question “Why does rap speak to me?”
Orientation in space and time	Explore the development of rap as a style of music across continents
Personal and cultural expression	Perform a rap song for peers and have a question-and-answer session
Scientific and technical innovation	Design a 3D model of a solar device with instruction for construction
Orientation in space and time	Investigate how, in history, different cultures have made use of energy for different needs
Globalization and sustainability	Debate Herve Kempf’s ideas about “how the rich are destroying the Earth”

Table 16 illustrates some examples of challenging and highly challenging personal project goals.

Challenging goal	Highly challenging goal
A student documents his or her self-taught skills of photography.	A student documents his or her neighbourhood through a photography exhibition.
A student creates a durable bag using second-hand materials.	A student creates a range of bags using second-hand materials to exhibit at the local arts centre.
A student writes an article on a topic of interest for a journal (school/academic/special interest) and submits it to an audience.	A student writes and publishes an original piece of writing on a topic of interest.

Table 16
Challenging and highly challenging personal projects

Identifying the global context for the project

The global context chosen by the student provides a context for inquiry and research for the project. Students choose only one global context to define their goal. In most cases other global contexts may inform the project or offer other perspectives, but the focus on one context will present opportunities that emerge through (self-imposed) limitations and give a specific focus to the project.

Table 17 shows some examples of the use of each global context for an MYP personal project.

Global context	Examples of personal projects
Identities and relationships Students will explore identity; beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social and spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities and cultures; what it means to be human.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two sides of social networking; an awareness campaign about digital citizenship and cyber bullying • How online identities impact offline relationships; a research essay • Keeping culinary traditions; a video series following family recipes with historical relevance • The effect of mass media on teenage identity; a short film
Orientation in space and time Students will explore personal histories; homes and journeys; turning points in humankind; discoveries; explorations and migrations of humankind; the relationships between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations from personal, local and global perspectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Euclidean space perspective of the universe; a 3D model • Explorers in search of a new world; immigration over the ages through visual texts • The Mayflower and the dream of religious freedom; a personal family history • Charting a family history through archives and a representational statue

Global context	Examples of personal projects
<p>Personal and cultural expression</p> <p>Students will explore the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video games as a form of cultural expression; a short film using five video games that shows how they are an expression of our culture • The art of Manga in Japanese culture; a Japanese anime and a survey of the understanding of my peers • Culture and self-expression through dance at the local community arts centre; a performance
<p>Scientific and technical innovation</p> <p>Students will explore the natural world and its laws; the interaction between people and the natural world; how humans use their understanding of scientific principles; the impact of scientific and technological advances on communities and environments; the impact of environments on human activity; how humans adapt environments to their needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nano fibres build stronger bikes; a prototype bike with nano fibres • What's the matter with the anti-matter?; an informational talk • Why are genetics and genomics important to my health?; a media presentation • Can stem cells replace organ transplants?; an investigative report
<p>Globalization and sustainability</p> <p>Students will explore the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the relationship between local and global processes; how local experiences mediate the global; the opportunities and tensions provided by world-interconnectedness; the impact of decision-making on humankind and the environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The struggle for water in developing countries; an awareness campaign • The impact of the financial crises of Europe and the European Economic Community on the United States; a visual presentation • Education as the tool to change the future of Peru; a workshop for adults • The role of the developing countries in protecting the tropical rain forest; a collection of slides
<p>Fairness and development</p> <p>Students will explore rights and responsibilities; the relationship between communities; sharing finite resources with other people and with other living things; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting fair trade: Cocoa trade in Ghana; an awareness campaign for our school restaurant/cafeteria to promote fair trade • Open-market economies and their role in fair trade; a talk for students • Exploring the intersections of race and inequality; a radio broadcast • Asylum seekers and their right to live like us; a painting

The Role of the Supervisor

- The purpose of the supervisor is to support the student during the process of the personal project.
- Each student has his or her own supervisor.
- Students will be assigned a supervisor.
- Students are required to meet with their supervisor at least three times throughout the project process.

The supervisor's responsibilities are to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ensure the chosen MYP project topic satisfies appropriate legal and ethical standards with regard to health and safety, confidentiality, human rights, animal welfare, and environmental issues● Provide guidance to students in the process and completion of the project● Confirm the authenticity of the work submitted● Assess the MYP project using the criteria in this guide● Participate in the standardization of assessment process established by the school
Students should receive information and guidance that includes:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Guidelines about the MYP project● A timeline with deadlines● The assessment criteria for the project● Advice on how to keep and use a process journal● The importance of personal analysis and reflection● Formative feedback● Requirements for academic honesty

Students are expected to spend approximately 25 hours on their personal project. This time includes:

- Meeting with supervisors
- Independent learning through research, planning, development and completion of the project
- Reporting of the project

Students and their supervisors must use the academic honesty form provided by the IB to note their meeting dates and the main points discussed and to declare the academic honesty of work. This form must be completed each time the student and supervisor meet.

The academic honesty form can be completed on each individual student's Managebac account.

II. Project Components

The personal project consists of three main components:

- The process journal
- The product
- The report (essay)

Developing a proposal for your personal project

Once students decide what they would like to achieve in their personal project, they must submit a proposal that must be approved by their supervisor. The proposal will be submitted through Managebac.com. Your proposal must include the following:

- Topic
- Goal
- Global Context
- Inquiry Question
- Criteria

A. The Process Journal

The journal will document the entire process of your Personal Project. It will include your planning, a description of your research process, reflection about what you are doing and learning, the challenges that you faced and overcame, and the successes that you experienced. It can be illustrated and include plans and designs as appropriate.

1. Your process journal is where you will document your learning throughout your project.
2. This can be accessed on Managebac.com. There will be a separate tab on the right of your screen that says “Process Journal”.
3. Your process journal will be assessed using Criterion B of the Personal Project rubric.
4. Date each entry and aim for a minimum of one entry per week.
5. Entries may include brainstorming webs or charts, notes, annotated research, bibliography of resources, pictures or sketches, notes on what you have learned, self-assessment, challenges/difficulties you faced, and/or questions you would like to ask your supervisor.

You must provide evidence that you have addressed the four objectives to demonstrate achievement at the highest levels of the criteria.

The process journal is:

The process journal is not:

used throughout the project to document its development an evolving record of intents, processes, accomplishments.	used on a daily basis (unless this is useful for the student)
a place to record initial thoughts and developments, brainstorming, possible lines of inquiry and further questions raised	written after the process has been completed

a place for recording interactions with sources, for example teachers, supervisors, external contributor.	additional work on top of the project; it is part of and supports your personal project
a place to record selected, annotated and/or edited research and to maintain a bibliography	a diary with detailed writing about what was done
a place for storing useful information, for example quotations, pictures, ideas, photographs	a static document with only one format.
a means of exploring ideas and solutions	
a place for evaluating work completed	
a place for reflecting on learning	
devised by the student in a format that suits his or her needs	
a record of reflections and formative feedback received from teachers or supervisors.	

B. Product

As part of the goal, students must determine a final product/outcome of their project. The product/outcome might be:

- An original work of art(music, drama, dance composition, play, etc.)
- A model
- A business plan
- A campaign
- A blueprint or architectural drawing
- An essay
- A course of study
- A debate
- A film
- A science experiment/invention
- Create a game/website/scrapbook

Students must define realistic criteria to measure the quality of the project's final outcome or product. For example, the goal may be to design a personal fitness program to prepare for a half-marathon. The project is aiming to increase fitness through a training schedule, with the outcome of demonstrating increased fitness by successfully running a half-marathon. The criteria might include a proposed running schedule with interim predicted running times, and the final running time the student hopes to achieve in the half-marathon. The outcome might be

documented through a fitness chart, diary entries, running times and a series of photos of the actual marathon.

The design, building, performing, writing and completion of the product should not be rushed. A considerable amount of preparation needs to occur prior to actual product or event. There must be a strong purpose to your project and you should think about how you will meet your goals. Remember that you will learn from your mistakes; ensure that you seek the advice of your supervisor on a regular basis.

The key elements to a successful and meaningful Personal Project are: originality, individuality, personal and something you have a genuine interest in.

C. Report (Essay)

The final component of your personal project requires students to write a formal piece of writing that explains what you did, how you did it, and why do did it.

- Your paper must be written in MLA format. You can access the Purdue OWL website at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/24/>
- Your essay must be a minimum of 1500 words, but no longer than 3500 words.
- You are expected to express your reflective thinking in a concise manner. The personal statement is handed in for assessment along with the Project itself.
- The essay is the place where you bring together and summarize your thinking, process and creation that helped you to complete your project.
- The essay DOES NOT replace the product or outcome of your project.
- You will need to plan and organize the information. Your process journal will be extremely important at this point as it will contain all the information you need to complete the essay, if you have used it consistently.

Research and Resources

Students should select relevant and reliable information from a variety of sources to develop the MYP project. The number and type of resources will vary depending upon the nature of the project; however, the reach the highest achievement levels through investigating, students must select a range of sources and a variety of source types. Students should consider factors such as credibility of the author, currency, accuracy, relevance, intended audience and objectivity of the source.

Although sources may include student's prior knowledge, students are strongly encouraged to search for primary and secondary sources.

Students will select sources during the initial stage of their project, but research and evaluation of sources will continue during the process of completing the project. They should record

information collected from these sources in their process journal, along with annotations and possible uses.

Structure of the Essay

A. The Essay Must Include:

- i. Title Page (see box - top right)**
- ii. Table of Contents**
- iii. Body of the Essay (see box - bottom right)**
- iv. Bibliography**

Title Page

B. The Title Page Must Include:

- i. Student Name**
- ii. Title of the Project**
- iii. Length (Word Count)**
- iv. School Name v. Year**

Body of the Essay

C. The Body of the Essay Must Include:

- i. The Goal of your Project**
- ii. Sources/Research**
- iii. Application of Information**
- iv. Achieving the Goal**
- v. Reflection on Learning**

Suggested Questions to Answer in Your Essay

A. Investigating

- **What made your goal a highly challenging goal?**
- **How did your personal interests influence the selection of your goal?**
- **What is your global context? Why did you select this global context?**
- **What is the relationship between your goal and the global context?**
- **What relevant prior knowledge did you have?**
- **What new understandings did you gain from your research?**
- **What sources did you use? (Don't forget to include an MLA-formatted bibliography of these research sources on the last page of your report! Reference easybib.com for more information on structuring your bibliography).**
- **How did you know they were credible? Accurate? Relevant? Objective?**

B. Planning

- What were your criteria?
- Why did you select your criteria?
- What makes your criteria rigorous?
- Explain the step-by-step process and timeline you used as you worked to complete your project.
- Refer to specific process journal extracts you included in your appendix.
- How did you manage your time and resources effectively?
- What obstacles did you experience?
- How did you handle those obstacles?

C. Taking Action

- Describe the product/outcome that you created.
- How does your product/outcome reflect the SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-Sensitive) goal that you developed?
- How does your product/outcome reflect the global context you selected?
- Why did you choose to express your learning through your product/outcome?
- How did you collaborate throughout your project?
- How does your product/outcome reflect new ideas and different perspectives?

D. Reflecting

- How does your product/outcome meet each criterion that you developed?
- How can you transfer your newly learned knowledge to other areas of your life?
- How has completing the project extended your knowledge and understanding of your topic?
- How has completing the project extended your knowledge and understanding of the global context you selected?
- Which IB Learner Profile Attributes did you develop throughout the project?

III. Assessment Criteria

Students will receive informal “checkpoint” grades periodically throughout this process. Please see timeline for more information on due dates.

The IB rubric used to score your personal project is on the next page.

Assessment Criteria

Personal Project	7-8	5-6	3-4	1-2
Criterion A: Investigating	<p>The student is able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> define a clear and highly challenging goal and context for the project, based on personal interests identify prior learning and subject-specific knowledge that is consistently highly relevant to the project demonstrate excellent research skills. 	<p>The student is able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> define a clear and challenging goal and context for the project, based on personal interests identify prior learning and subject-specific knowledge generally relevant to the project demonstrate substantial research skills. 	<p>The student is able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> outline a basic and appropriate goal and context for the project, based on personal interests identify basic prior learning and subject-specific knowledge relevant to some areas of the project demonstrate adequate research skills. 	<p>The student is able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> state a goal and context for the project, based on personal interests, but this may be limited in depth or accessibility identify prior learning and subject-specific knowledge, but this may be limited in occurrence or relevance demonstrate limited research skills.
Criterion B: Planning	<p>The student is able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> develop rigorous criteria for the product/outcome present a detailed and accurate plan and record of the development process of the project demonstrate excellent self-management skills. 	<p>The student is able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> develop substantial and appropriate criteria for the product/outcome present a substantial plan and record of the development process of the project demonstrate substantial self-management skills. 	<p>The student is able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> develop adequate criteria for the product/outcome present an adequate plan and record of the development process of the project demonstrate adequate self-management skills. 	<p>The student is able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> develop limited criteria for the product/outcome present a limited or partial plan and record of the development process of the project demonstrate limited self-management skills.
Criterion C: Taking Action	<p>The student is able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> create an excellent product/outcome in response to the goal, global context and criteria demonstrate excellent thinking skills demonstrate excellent communication and social skills. 	<p>The student is able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> create a substantial product/outcome in response to the goal, global context and criteria demonstrate substantial thinking skills demonstrate substantial communication and social skills. 	<p>The student is able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> create a basic product/outcome in response to the goal, global context and criteria demonstrate adequate thinking skills demonstrate adequate communication and social skills. 	<p>The student is able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> create a limited product/outcome in response to the goal, global context and criteria demonstrate limited thinking skills demonstrate limited communication and social skills.
Criterion D: Reflecting	<p>The student is able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> present an excellent evaluation of the quality of the product/outcome against his or her criteria present excellent reflection on how completing the project has extended his or her knowledge and understanding of the topic and the global context present excellent reflection on his or her development as an IB learner through the project. 	<p>The student is able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> present a substantial evaluation of the quality of the product/outcome against his or her criteria present substantial reflection on how completing the project has extended his or her knowledge and understanding of the topic and the global context present substantial reflection on his or her development as an IB learner through the project. 	<p>The student is able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> present a basic evaluation of the quality of the product/outcome against his or her criteria present adequate reflection on how completing the project has extended his or her knowledge and understanding of the topic and the global context present adequate reflection on his or her development as an IB learner through the project. 	<p>The student is able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> present a limited evaluation of the quality of the product/outcome against his or her criteria present limited reflection on how completing the project has extended his or her knowledge and understanding of the topic and the global context present limited reflection on his or her development as an IB learner through the project.

IV. External Moderation

- In response to national or local requirements, schools may add criteria and use additional models of assessment.
- Each student has a personal project supervisor who provides guidance and formative feedback. Projects are assessed by their supervisors against these published criteria, and schools conduct internal standardization to ensure consistent understanding of the criteria and student performance.
- The external validation of personal project grades is mandatory for all MYP schools ending in year 5. In each exam session, the IB moderates a sample of personal projects from each school, adjusting grades as necessary to ensure the application of rigorous and reliable international standards.
- The IB MYP certificate requires a satisfactory level of achievement in the personal project.

Personal Project Showcase

Students are required to attend the Personal Project showcase at the end of this process. This is an opportunity for students to share and present their research and product to other students, teachers, and parents. Students will be informed of the date later in the semester.

V. Glossary of Terms

Terms	Definitions
Bibliography	An alphabetical list of every source used to research the project.
Criteria	Specific elements the personal project/outcome must meet to be a quality outcome, as defined by the student.
List of References	An alphabetical list of only those sources that are cited in the project presentation or report.
Outcome	The end result of the student's personal project, used particularly where the project has resulted in a non-tangible result or result that has various aspects to it, for example, an awareness-raising campaign.
Process Journal	A generic term to refer to the documentation that students develop during the process of completing the MYP project.
Product	The end result of the student's personal project used particularly where the project has resulted in a tangible artifact such as a sculpture, film, story, or model.
Report	A written account of something that one has observed, heard, done or investigated, which aims to inform, as clearly and succinctly as possible.

Suggested Timeline

2nd Semester

1/29 -project is assigned

Week 1: 1/29-2/2

- **Choose your topic**
- **Log in to ManageBac.com**
- **Create your proposal**
- **Supervisors assigned to students**
- **Be sure to email your supervisor, through ManageBac, to get your project proposal approved. You will see this approval in ManageBac or comments from your supervisor to change something.**
- **CHECKPOINT: Topic and proposal have been entered into Managebac.**

Week 2: 2/5- 2/9

- **Begin research**
- **1-2 journal entries should be completed in ManageBac under the “Processing Journal” tab.**
- **Contact Supervisor via ManageBac to arrange an in-person meeting with them to discuss your topic and the research you have attempted thus far. This meeting must be conducted by 2/9.**

Week 3: 2/12- 2/16

- **Continue research**
- **2-3 journal entries should be completed**

Week 4: 2/19- 2/23

- **Continue research**
- **2-3 journal entries should be completed**
- **Email supervisor to schedule meeting to check-in with progress, evaluate sources, and to clarify the criteria. Meeting must take place by 2/23 so any changes can be addressed at this point.**

Week 5: 2/26- 3/2

- **Begin working on product**
- **Begin working on report**
- **1-3 journal entries should be completed**
- **CHECKPOINT: Student must provide evidence of at least 5 process journals and 2 meetings with supervisor.**

Week 6: 3/5- 3/9

- **Finish rough draft of essay**
- **Contact Supervisor to have essay looked over Continue working on product**
- **1-2 journal entries**

Week 7: 3/12- 3/16

- **Finish essay**
- **Finish product. Upload Product (or pictures of product) into ManageBac.**
- **1-2 journal entries**
- **Meet with Supervisor in person to get final feedback**

Week 8: 3/19- 3/23

- **CHECKPOINT: Product report rough draft and peer critiques in English class**

3/26- Entire Personal Project and Product is due in Managebac.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Davis at kathryn.davis@cms.k12.nc.us