

Personal Project Summer Reading Assignment Rising Sophomores

All IBMYP sophomores must complete a Personal Project, with the majority of their work undertaken during the school year. Summer is a great time to start thinking about your topic and the product you would like to create. We encourage you to create, develop, or design something that has meaning and substance- something that you can proudly say, “I did this.”

You **CAN'T** complete your Personal Project this summer! However, you can brainstorm ideas for your topic! In the fall, you will have access to the Myers Park Personal Project Guide in ManageBac. We will also assign a teacher supervisor to work with you. You will document the entire Personal Project process in ManageBac **NEXT** year.

I hope that your Personal Project summer reading assignment is clear! **Your assignment is to** choose a topic for your Personal Project. This will take lots of reading and thinking!

Please consult the official Myers Park Summer Reading Assignment List for other assignments!

What will you submit in ManageBac NEXT year?

You **CAN'T** complete your Personal Project this summer! Therefore, the following is only a preview of coming attractions your sophomore year!

There are **three major components** to the Personal Project:

- 1. The Process Journal** – You must document all the steps you take and your evolving thinking about the project – from brainstorming a topic this summer to reflecting on your final product.
- 2. The Product/Outcome** – This is the ‘thing’ you produce in order to accomplish your project goal. You will evaluate its success by measuring the product/outcome against specifications that you create in advance!
- 3. The Report** – You must create a detailed report of your project including evidence that you have met the Personal Project Assessment Criteria. The report must have a specific structure, and you will receive guidance on writing it.

Remember: You **CAN'T** complete your Personal Project this summer!

Need some help coming up with a topic idea? Consider the following questions:

1. What are your hobbies? What do you do during your "free" time?
2. What is your favorite subject at Myers Park?
3. Was there a course you wanted to take, but could not fit into your schedule?
4. What do you do well? Sports? Music? Special Skills?
6. Are there skills you would like to develop?
8. Look at Myers Park, your neighborhood, or the Charlotte community. What needs do you see? How can you address them?

Make (and keep) your topic feasible

Be realistic about what you can achieve. If you choose a topic that is too challenging, you will not be able to achieve what you want. Learning to play the guitar is probably not feasible. However, if you already know how to play the guitar, learning a new technique is feasible. Creating a cyber-bullying awareness campaign at Myers Park is feasible. Ending cyber-bullying among teenagers in Charlotte is a great idea, but not a feasible Personal Project.

Global contexts

You must identify one of the six MYP global contexts for your Personal Project, to establish the relevance of your inquiry (why it matters):

- identities and relationships
- orientation in space and time
- personal and cultural expression
- scientific and technical innovation
- globalization and sustainability
- fairness and development.

Consider the following questions as you choose a global context through which to focus your 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?

The choice of the global context could significantly shift the perspective of your Personal Project. For example, you may wish to raise funds for a nonprofit organization. You will explore the challenges the organization addresses, such as pollution, climate change,

endangered species, health, education, housing, food, human rights, minority rights, immigration, culture, arts, communication, etc. The organization's mission will determine the global context for this type of project.

Examples of past Personal Projects

Implemented a recycling program

Tested water quality

Learned how to cook traditional ethnic cuisine

Wrote a children's book

Wrote poetry

Wrote a play

Wrote songs

Developed a marketing campaign to address a Teen Issue- anorexia

Trained their pet

Built a simple guitar

Learned to play a sport

Used physics to perfect his pool shot

Developed a new strategy for chess

Created a video game

Started a small business

Developed a recipe

Designed jewelry

Created a music video

Created an exercise video

Painted a large a mural

Learned to blow glass

Went on an archeological dig

Researched family genealogy

Raised money for a charity

Invented a new product

Conducted an experiment

Performed new dances

Performed music

Performed comedy

Became fit

Developed a nutrition and exercise plan

Learned basic handwriting analysis

Learned magic tricks

Made coats for refugees

Knitted scarves for the needy

Organized an after-school program for at-risk students

Taught self-defense to girls

Studied lasting effects of the Holocaust

Creating a website

Started a blog

Designed clothes

Started a recycling program

Learned the basics of a foreign language

Planted a garden

Learned basic sign language

Whatever topic you choose, your Personal Project should:

- have a clear and achievable goal
- be focused on one global context
- allow you to express a truly personal message
- be the result of your initiative, creativity and ability to organize and plan
- reflect your special interests, special abilities, or concerns about particular issues
- deal with a topic or area to which you are committed
- be entirely your own work—authenticity is very important and you may be required to sign a document stating that the personal project is your own work.

You must submit an acceptable Personal Project to enter the IB Diploma Program in grade 11.
DO NOT wait until the fall to choose your topic!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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