

EXTENDED ESSAY GROUP 6 THE ARTS

Student Training
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Visual Arts EE Overview

Addresses a particular issue or research question appropriate to the visual arts

- Architecture
- Art Styles
- Design
- Contemporary forms of visual culture

Research is generated by...

- Student's direct experience with artwork, craftwork, or design
- Interest in the work of a particular artist, style, or period

Visual Art EE must...

- Address a relevant issue or research question and arrive at a particular and preferably personal conclusion
- Avoid narrative or descriptive essays, no summaries
- Be specific with a clear focus to ensure detailed understanding and critical analysis

Sample VA EE Titles

Be Specific!

- “How did Wassily Kandinsky use color?”
NOT “The Bauhaus”
- “An analysis of African influences on Henry Moore” NOT “20th Century British Sculpture”
- “Klimt’s use of gold” NOT “The art of Native North American People”

VA EE Approach

Topic: Cultural influence on Pablo Picasso's work

Research Question: Picasso individual genius or cultural thief?

Approach: An investigation of the extent to which selected images in Picasso's work may have been appropriated from other cultural sources.

VA EE should include...

- Local and primary sources
 - *Artist interviews*
 - *Viewing art works in person*
 - *Interview of people reactions to art works*
- Your critique
- Sources that support ideas, opinions and assertions. Show evidence that supports your comments and conclusions.
 - *What do the art Professionals/Historians/Curators have to say that support your assertion?*

What is different about a VA EE

- Explores art and its function in society
- Personal Critique/ Analysis of art works
- Illustrations and List of Illustrations Page
- Layout can consists of table of contents, subheadings, and appendix.
- *Cool cover page*

Theater EE Overview

Student should

- undertake independent research into a topic of their choice
- apply a range of skills in order to develop and explore a focused research question appropriate to theatre in an imaginative and critical way
- test and validate their research by considering its effect on the practice of the investigated theatre form.

Research is generated by...

- The use of appropriate theatrical sources that encourages the application of relevant theatrical concepts, theories, or ideas.
- Absolute reliance on textbooks and web sites is not sufficient.
- Sources should be consulted in conjunction with other relevant research material as support material for the student's own original research.

Sample Theater Topics

- An investigation into the functions of mask in two of Zeami Motokiyo's Noh
- Female stereotypes and their performances in a selection of Brecht's plays
- An examination of Soyinka's use of rhythm in acting, based on an in-depth exploration of one Soyinka play.
- A study of the effects of the use of fabrics and lighting in *The Tempest*.
- A study of the use of fans in Restoration comedy.

Theater EE Approach

Topic

- A study of the effects of the use of fabrics and lighting in *The Tempest*

Research Question

- How can fabrics and lighting contribute to the creation of magical effects in a production of Shakespeare's last play?

Approach

- In-depth research is carried out into the use of fabrics (in furnishing and costuming) and lighting in previous productions of *The Tempest*. There is a discussion, based on these examples, of how fabrics and lighting work with other production elements, how they can contribute to the creation of magical effects and how these affect the readings of the play. The way that appropriate/inappropriate use of both can affect how a production is examined.

Theater EE Should Include...

- Primary and secondary data:
 - Books, newspapers and magazines, interviews, and reliable Internet sites
- The use of other materials:
 - Sketches, drawings, pictures, plans, photographs, CDs and DVDs
- Evidence from sources that support your topic, research question, and analysis/assertions

Music EE Overview

- Focuses on one or more pieces of *real music* experienced through:
 - Recordings
 - Live performances/concerts
- Coherent verbal analysis and interpretation of music may include score samples
- Primary focus must be the music itself, rather than the lives of the performers, nature of the instruments, or lyrics.

Sample Music EE Titles

Be Specific!

- “The use of contrapuntal techniques in Bach’s Art of Fugue” NOT “Bach’s Fugues”
- “Harmonic innovation in the bebop style of Dizzy Gillespie” NOT “The music of Dizzy Gillespie”
- “The role of minimalist techniques in Balinese gamelan” NOT “Balinese gamelan”

Music EE Approach

Topic:

- Edgard Varese and Frank Zappa

Research Question:

- What is the influence of Edgard Varese on the musical output of Frank Zappa?

Approach:

- An investigation into the stylistic similarities between these two composers

Music EE Approach

Topic:

- *Jesus Christ Superstar* and opera

Research Question:

- Is *Jesus Christ Superstar* a modern classical opera?

Approach:

- An investigation into Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical language and structures in this work, with reference to other relevant music from operas of the Western classical tradition

Music EE Approach

Topic:

- Emotional Tension in Traditional Music

Research Question:

- Emotional tension and its significance in Japanese music.

Approach:

- An investigation into the mechanisms used in traditional Japanese music to create emotional tension, with reference to comparable examples in Western music.