

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME (IBMYP)

Mirabeau B. Lamar High School

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Your IBMYP Personal Project

Student Guide 2008-2009
Level 5 (10th grade)



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Your IBMYP Personal Project Overview.....page 3-4

Common Questions about Your Personal Project.....page 5-6

Assessment Criteria.....page 6



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YOUR IBMYP PERSONAL PROJECT

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

The Personal Project should be a reflection of your interest such as investigating something that has always interested you or a future career path. You will be using the research path or design cycle to develop your project and your writing skills to develop your paper. Both must be of original thought and be all about YOU! The purpose of this project is twofold. First, we want to give you an opportunity to practice and demonstrate your understanding of how to research. Second, we want to give you a chance to investigate something that interests you but may not fit into our school's curriculum. You should put some effort into this, BUT it should be FUN and interesting to YOU! Your personal project is not graded on how well it turns out. It is your effort, your documentation of your journey, your research and follow-through which determine your final score.

THE TWO-PART PROJECT:

Part I: The Project

By the end of this adventure you need to create something. What that is exactly is up to you. In April, you will present your project to a panel of people who will listen to the journey you took to produce this work. This panel may consist of your teacher, parents, and other Lamar students.

Part II: The Paper (The Structured Piece of Writing)

Part of this quest is showing us that you know how to research. The paper that you will be required to write will allow us to see HOW you researched your project. The traditional method of research is to "go to the library"; you may be surprised at what your research looks like for this project. There will be four parts to this paper that are described in detail below. HOWEVER, because we cannot check on the actual project, your written work will serve as our only means of checking up on your project. There will be due dates for each component of your written work. You will be asked to keep a journal of each step you take along this venture. This journal will help you write your paper.

THE REQUIREMENTS:

Part I: The Project:

This must be a tangible piece of work and all about YOU!! This should not be an essay about something. You should make use of the design cycle tool to help guide you through the project from start to completion.



Part II: The Paper:

1. **Title Page and Table of Contents. Make it detailed and topic-specific, covering all areas of the project.**
2. **Introduction, including your guiding questions**
3. **Description of the process- how you created your project (JOURNAL)**
4. **An analysis of your inspiration, research, influences guiding your work, findings, decisions you made, the product produced, the process in terms of your goal and connections to the Area(s) of Interaction.**
5. **Conclusion-your reflection on the impact that the project had on you and new perspectives that you considered.**
6. **Bibliography using the MLA format and appendices (when necessary)**

Details of the Paper: The title page should include the topic of your paper, name, the school name, and your word count.

- ✓ **Introduction: In this section please include:**
 - **Overview of what your project is and why you chose it**
 - **What is your goal? Form this in a guiding question.**
- ✓ **Process: In this section please include:**
 - **Sections and quotes from your journal**
 - **Steps taken to achieve your goal**
 - **How did your research help you**
 - **Unforeseen problems and difficulties**
- ✓ **Area of Interaction: In this section please include:**
 - **You of course use Approaches to Learning. Our ultimate goal is to enable students to take responsibility for their own learning. You must ask yourself, “How do I learn best? How do I know? How do I communicate my understanding?” Throughout your project, you must constantly be aware of how you will answer those questions.**
 - **Focus on, and do further explanation of, at least one or more other Areas of Interaction**
 - **Your Project should be driven through the Areas of Interaction and you should address the question: “How did the Areas of Interaction allow you to see your project from different perspectives?”**

- The Area(s) of Interaction should be evident in the planning, development, analysis, process and outcome of the project.
- ✓ **Conclusion:** In this section please include:
 - Answer your guiding question. How did this project allow you to answer this question?
 - What research did you use to complete this project and why was it useful...was there research conducted that was not useful? Why?
 - Compare your finished project to your goal.
- ✓ **Bibliography:** Follow these rules: use the MLA format
 - Alphabetize your authors
 - Do not number your bibliography
 - Try to have at least three sources...primary sources; interviews are great!
 - Use accurate web sites and information

OTHER ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

The Journal:

This notebook referred to as the design folder, should be full of written accounts and drawings of the steps you took to complete your project. After you spend time working on your project, spend a minute or two and record your thoughts about what you did. This will be collected when you present your project. You will also need this document to write your “process” section of your paper.

The Mentor:

Lamar High School will provide each student with an adult faculty member mentor. This process will begin in late September and provide you with an opportunity to visit with your mentor once a month for five months. You may also find an additional person who can mentor you outside of class who offers ideas that will help guide you while completing your project. Your mentor will also help check your project along the way. In the end, the Lamar faculty mentor will be responsible for giving you a mark in criterion G, Personal Engagement. If you need help, please contact MYP Coordinator, Mr. Ted Williams at 713-522-5960 ext 371 or twillia4@houstonisd.org

Common Questions about Your Personal Project

1. How many Areas of Interaction (AOI) must I refer to in my Personal Project?
You of course include Approaches to Learning (ATL). You should focus on, and do further exploration of, one or more Areas of Interaction, from Community & Service, Human Ingenuity, Health & Social Education or Environments.
2. How are Approaches to Learning (ATL) linked to the Personal Project?
Examples of some ATL's could include: research skills, using the who, what, where, when, why and how questions, time management, presentation of work, being prepared on time, being punctual, meeting deadlines, taking responsibilities, not blaming others, enthusiasm, and being able to work independently. These are some of the critical elements that can make your Personal Project a success.
3. What should my paper look like?
 - a. Title Page
 - b. Contents Page

- c. *Introduction (write the introduction as if the person reading your project has little or no knowledge of your topic)*
 - d. *Process (this section comes mainly from your Process Journal)*
 - e. *Analysis (links to the Area of Interaction)*
 - f. *Conclusion/Evaluation (what you learned from doing this)*
 - g. *Bibliography*
 - h. *Appendices (if necessary)*
4. *How much time will this take? The average Level 5 student spends about a minimum of 20 hours up to 50 hours, including preparation and research during the entire school year.*
 5. *How often should I meet with my mentor? You should meet with your Personal Project mentor at least once per month or more.*
 6. *Who assesses my Personal Project? A panel of teachers, including your mentor from M.B. Lamar High School will assess your Personal Project. After being assessed at the site level, a sampling of projects are sent off to Cardiff, Wales, where some Projects will undergo monitoring of assessment, to assure that IBMYP world-wide standards are being properly met.*
 7. *Can I work with a friend? Yes and No....the individual essays and research portion must be done individually; HOWEVER, you may work on the Personal Project with a partner, with approval from the MYP coordinator and the supervising teacher. No more than two can work together.*

The Assessment Criteria

There are seven assessment criteria for the personal project.

Each criterion (A–G) assesses a different component of the student’s project.

Criterion A	<u>Planning and development</u>	Maximum level: 4
Criterion B	<u>Collection of information/resources</u>	Maximum level: 4
Criterion C	<u>Choice and application of techniques</u>	Maximum level: 4
Criterion D	<u>Analysis of information</u>	Maximum level: 4
Criterion E	<u>Organization of the written work</u>	Maximum level: 4
Criterion F	<u>Analysis of process and outcome</u>	Maximum level: 4
Criterion G	<u>Personal engagement</u>	Maximum level: 4

Each criterion comprises five achievement levels with descriptors outlining the competencies students must show to achieve that level. Your teacher will go over this with you in class.

