Clearlake Middle School

IB-MYP
8th Grade
Personal Project
Guide

Your Guide To The IB-MYP Personal Project

The Personal Project is a significant body of work that is the product of your own initiative and creativity. It is not an optional assignment; it is a **required** aspect of the IB Middle Years Program (IBMYP) around the world.

The goal of the Personal Project is for each IBMYP student to develop a focus of deep personal interests that reflects the knowledge he/she gained through participation in the IBMYP. The Project should focus deeply upon one of the five MYP Areas of Interaction. Remember, you will be working on this project for an extended period of time so it needs to be something you **really** want to do.

Important Reminder!!!
Make backups of ALL your work on multiple places (flash drives, other computers, external hard drives, CDs, etc, not just on your computer). Print out journal entries, your final report, and other important documents. *"My computer crashed"* is not a valid excuse for not completing your project by the due date!

There are several important components of the overall Personal Project.
1. **The Process Journal-** In this, you keep track of your progress on the Personal Project. Every time you do work, meet with your mentor, or think about the Personal Project you should write in your journal. Any time you do research, this is where you should take notes and maintain a working citation list. This is also where you note your personal opinions and feelings about what you are learning and the process you are going through. **(minimum of 20 entries)**
2. **The Product-** Unlike most other assignments you will work on during your education, the focus of the Personal Project is *The PRODUCT*-the thing you make, create, present, adapt, or do.
3. **The Essay-** While a paper is not going to be your focus; you will still have to write one. This is a 300 word minimum expository essay, meant to describe the research you had to do to successfully complete the project, relate your project to your area of interaction, and discuss what you have learned about yourself and your topic in creating your product. Your essay must have a works cited section documented in MLA format.
4. **Other Aspects-**
    a. **Personal Engagement-** You MUST actively communicate with your mentor about the progress you are making with your project.
    b. **Deadlines-** Turn in any required materials on time.
    c. **Research-** Choose valid sources and cite them correctly.
    d. **Reflection-** Throughout this process, you are asked to be open with yourself and others about what you have learned, what is working, what is failing and what needs to be changed.

The Four P's of Personal Project

Your project consists of four parts…

Paper
During this first phase, a topic is chosen. Students should choose a topic that they are genuinely interested in learning more about. The topic may be academic or practical and must be linked to an area of interaction. Key to this project is the ability to find a topic that is interesting and will stretch your knowledge. You may use community service experience, reading, computer, and interview skills to investigate sources. Your paper must be a *minimum of 300 words and use a minimum of five sources*.

Power Point
You must have a *Power Point* presentation to accompany your paper.

Product
The second phase of this project requires you to apply the information learned from your research to create something personal in regard to the topic (visual documentation). The form you choose should demonstrate a direct correlation between your research and the type of project you produce.

Presentation
The final phase of the project is the presentation. This will consist of a 3-5 minute presentation in front of a panel of teachers, administration, and community leaders. These presentations are scheduled well in advance, and you will have ample time to prepare.

CMS Personal Project Timeline

_____
(Student Name)

Project Due: April 25th

	Task	Due Date	Mentor's Signature
1.	**Introduction/Orientation** _(During Homeroom 230)_	October	(Lacy)
2.	Topic Questionnaire Due	October	(Lacy)
3.	**Begin Process Journal:** **Planning & Goal Development** _(examples: brainstorming, topic, question, Area of Interaction and how it relates, plan of action, goals, steps, meetings with mentors)_	Nov. 4th- 5th	
4.	**Notification Form/Project Question Due**	November	(Lacy)
5.	**Supervisors Assigned** (Begin meeting weekly)	November	
6.	**Topic Exploration and Planning Form Due**	Nov.- December 1	(Lacy & Mentor)
7.	_First Process Journal Check:_ **Planning & Goal Development** (5 entries) _((examples: brainstorming, topic, question, Area of Interaction and how it relates, plan of action, goals, steps, meetings with mentors)_	Dec.-January 13th	
8.	Written Outline and Plan On How Goal Will be achieved Due	January 31st	
9.	_Second Process Journal Check:_ **Collection of Information & Research** (5 entries and 5 Sources) _(examples: notes, things your learned, important facts, sources identified and documented in MLA style)_	February 13-19th	
10.	**Create Product** And Evaluate Your Process	February-March 18th	
11.	_Third Process Journal Check:_ **Work In Progress** _(5 entries)_ _(examples: outline, sketches/designs, photos, discoveries and adjustments_	March 12th-18th	
12.	_Fourth Process Journal Check:_ **Reflections** (5 entries) _(examples:_ Reflections on process and goals, choices made, obstacles, solutions, information discovered, meetings, yourself as a researcher, writer, creator, learner, and how **areas of interaction** are present throughout the process)	March 19th -25th	
13.	**First Draft of Written Report Due** Title page	April 2nd-6th	

	Table of Contents
	Introduction
	Body of Essay
	   o Goals defined
	   o Reflection and analysis
	   o Area of Interaction Justification
	   o Conclusion
	   o Bibliography
	   o Appendices		

14.	Revised Written Report Completed	April-9th -15th	
15.	Create/complete PowerPoint presentation	By end of April	
16.	**Final Deadline for Personal Project**	**April 25th**	
17.	Assessment/ Feedback from Mentors	April 25th-27th	
18.	**Presentation to Panel, Peers etc…**	**May 2nd**	
19.	Field Trip: Students that Completed the Project	May 11th	
20.	Personal Evaluations/Discussion/Reflection	May 7th-May 18th	(Lacy)

Note: Some dates may change, but the general timeline will remain the same.
Mentors may assign additional dates for assignments and meetings as needed.

Student Signature: _____	**Parent Signature:** _____

Students need at least a 70 page spiral notebook, a portable flash drive and access to a computer to compete this project. Students are responsible for all work and must cite sources correctly. It is also the student's responsibility to seek out help from their mentor. Mentors will not hunt them down to make sure that the project is being completed. Email is a great and efficient way to communicate with mentors. After school help sessions will be provided. Contact Mrs. Lacy for times, dates and any other questions.

Project Proposal
(to be completed by student)

I met with my mentor, _____ and finalized my personal project idea

and plan. The area of interaction that my project will address is _____.

And my guiding question is _____.

I want to produce _____ as my ***product*** to explain _____

_____

_____

_____ which directly ties into

my area of interaction.

Process Journal Guidelines

Write at least two entries each week, for a total of at least 20 entries overall, with no fewer than _five_ of each of the following types of entries. Entries should be labeled and organized in an easy to follow format. This is not something that can be done at the last minute.

A. Planning and Goal Development _____ # of entries (_Due: Dec.-January 13th_)
☐ Topic Brainstorming & Discovery
☐ Personal Project Proposal sheet
☐ Topic refining and clarifying
☐ Initial Plan of Action and Goals
☐ On-going Goals, Schedules, To-do lists, Calendars, evidence of continual planning
☐ Notes on areas of interaction in terms of Goals and Planning
☐ Notes with questions to supervisor.

B. Collection of Information & Research _____ # of entries (_Due: February 13-19th_)
☐ Bibliography in MLA style.
☐ Notes on all resources (properly identified)
☐ Highlighted information used in final Project.

C. Works in Progress _____ # of entries (_Due: March 12th-18th_)
☐ Outline
☐ Sketches, storyboards, blueprints, schematics, designs, photos etc.
☐ Drafts with proof of editing, revisions, and/or re-formatting.

D. Reflections _____ # of entries (_Due: March 19th -25th_)
☐ Reflections on process and goals, choices made, obstacles, solutions, etc.
☐ Reflections on information discovered
☐ Reflections on meetings with Supervisor
☐ Reflections on self as researcher, writer, creator, and learner
☐ Reflections on self discovery and change throughout project
☐ Reflections on how the Areas of Interaction are present throughout the process
☐ Reflections relevant to Goals and Planning
☐ Reflections related to Collection of Information and Research.

Organization of Written Essay Report

Title Page
☐ My first and last names are on the cover page.
☐ The title of my project is on the cover page.

Introduction
☐ I have defined the goal of my project.
☐ I have identified the AOI focus.
☐ I have provided an outline of how I plan to achieve the goal.

Description of the process
☐ I have described exactly how I made my product.
☐ I have described how is used my research to make my product.

Analysis of the inspiration, research, and influences guiding the work ☐ I have analyzed where I got my idea, and the effectiveness of my research.
☐ I have analyzed my decisions.
☐ I have analyzed the success of my product.
☐ I have explained how I solved problems at every stage of the project.
☐ I have analyzed how the process helped me achieve my goal.
☐ I have analyzed ho the process helped me understand my AOI better.

Conclusion
☐ I have included my personal thoughts about my project.
☐ I have explained what I would do differently next time.

Bibliography
☐ I have included a complete and accurate bibliography with at least 5 sources written in MLA style.

Guidelines For Your Final Presentation

You will present your project it to a group of CMS students, teachers, parents and community members. You will have about 3-5 minutes to present. Think about the following when preparing for the presentation

- *What would be the best way to share your project?*
- *Would you ask your audience some questions before you show the "product"? (What questions? What information would you give them before? After ?)*
- *How will you engage your audience?*
- *Can you make your presentation hands-on? How?*

1. **What is the form of your personal project?**
   _____ *Visual art or object, model* _____ *Performance*
   _____ *Video/ computer-related* _____ *Event that has already occurred*
   _____ *Other (describe)* _____

2. **How could you present your project so that people will understand your goals and your achievement? Some options:**

- *Show it/do it, then talk for 2-3 minutes*
- *Talk about what you did and show a chart/ overhead to clarify*
- *Pass the product around for people to look at while you explain*
- *Do a simulation*

3. **What additional materials do you need to prepare just for the presentation?**

4. **What equipment/materials do you need us to provide?**

   _____ T.V./DVD   _____ Overhead projector
   _____ Computer and LCD projector   _____ CD/ tape player
   _____ Photocopies   _____ Dry erase markers
   _____ Other _____

5. **Give your project a descriptive or creative title.**

All 4 Parts of the project are due:
April 25th, 2012