

The Personal Project will be well worth the effort you put into it when you see the results of your creativity, talent and skill in such a tangible way!



Finishing the Middle Years Program

With middle school behind you now, you are entering into the home stretch of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program (MYP). One of the great things about finishing up the MYP is that there are no standardized tests you have to take to successfully complete the program. Your teachers will use classroom tests, assignments, project work and other practices to assess your progress toward learning goals. Another fun thing about the MYP in 9th and 10th grade is the Personal Project, which is a cool opportunity for you to dive into a topic you really love and accomplish something special and unique on your own.

The Personal Project

Toward the end of 9th grade, you will work with an adult mentor to decide what you want to do for your personal project. When it comes to what you do for your project, the possibilities are truly endless. The Personal Project is very different from, say, a research paper because the goal is not for

you to gather, process and express knowledge. Rather, the idea is that you get to accomplish something you care about using the knowledge you have gained throughout the MYP, especially the Areas of Interaction. You get to choose not only the topic but the mode of delivery for your project. So, if you are a whiz at music, you could choose to compose a musical score, for example. If you are great with your hands, you might choose to build a structure for your project.

After you and your mentor decide what your project will be and how it will be delivered, you have until the middle of 10th grade to get the work done. Your time management skills and habits will become very important during this window of time. It will be no fun to let this go until November and then rush through it, only to deliver work that does not truly demonstrate your talent. The Personal Project is really a chance to strut your best stuff, so make sure you make the most of the opportunity.

While you are working on the project, you will be required to document the processes you follow. You will meet with your mentor from time to time for guidance as you develop your ideas and document the project. Of course, your mentor, your teachers and your parents are always willing to help you over rough spots. You don't have to go it alone!

After your project is complete, your teachers will assess and grade the project on a 4-point scale based on how well you have:

- *planned and developed the project;*
- *collected and analyzed information;*
- *used resources;*
- *chosen and applied techniques;*
- *organized the written work;*
- *analyzed process and outcome, and*
- *engaged personally in the work.*

The Personal Project you complete in the MYP will definitely take some time and effort. It might be hard for you to stay focused on one project for that long, and it may be more challenging than any school work you have experienced before now. But, your enthusiasm for your topic and your desire to accomplish your goal will keep you going when you don't feel up to the task. The Personal Project will be well worth the effort you put into it when you see the results of your creativity, talent and skill in such a tangible way!

The MYP Personal Project is a great opportunity, and YOU CAN DO IT!

Types and Examples of Personal Projects

Types of Projects

The personal project can take many forms. The following are just a few examples:

- an original work of art (visual, dramatic or performance);
- a written piece of work on a special topic;
- a piece of creative writing;
- an original science experiment;
- an invention or specially designed object or system;
- the presentation of a special event or a developed business plan, or
- the creation of a new club or organization.

Examples of Projects

Students can choose almost any project based on their skills, talents and enthusiasm. The following are a couple of examples of what real students have done for their Personal Project:

- One student rebuilt a car with his dad.
- One student carved a canoe from a tree trunk.
- One student tracked and analyzed sports statistics.
- One student studied various forms of stained glass and created a piece of original stained glass.



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