

## What is the Personal Project?





Have you ever wanted to build a musical instrument? Do you have questions about a topic that you have wanted to research on your own? Do you have a secret passion to write a play? Now is your chance! The Personal Project is **your** project to do what **you** want to do, to show the skills you have developed since sixth grade in the IB Middle Years Program. The Personal Project is an individual project completed in your 10<sup>th</sup> grade year. It consists of three main components: **a product, a process journal, and a reflection paper**. You will choose a topic and enjoy learning about it as you research and develop your chosen product.

Through the Personal Project, you:

- ◆ demonstrate the personal abilities and skills required to produce and present an extended piece of work (think Learner Profile characteristics)!
- ◆ engage in personal inquiry, action and reflection on specific topics and issues
- ◆ focus on, and demonstrate an understanding of, the areas of interaction
- ◆ reflect on learning and share knowledge, views and opinions

## What are some examples of Personal Projects?

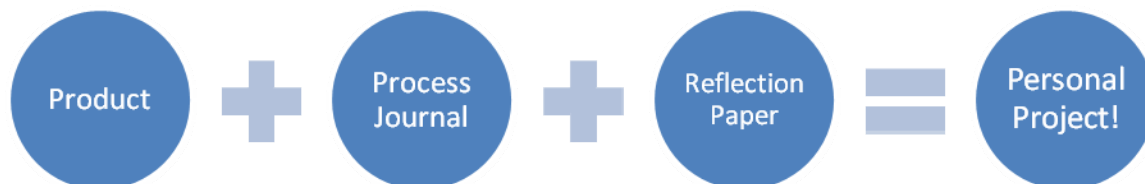
The Personal Project can take many forms, but all must be rooted in one Area of Interaction. The following are some examples to inspire your thinking.

| Community and Service  | Human Ingenuity  |
|--|--|
|  <p><b>Projects that help you become aware of your roles and responsibilities as a member of the community.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Design a website to encourage people to donate time to an organization</li> <li>◆ Start a book club to help students learn English</li> <li>◆ Organize a tutoring service for students</li> <li>◆ Create goods to donate to an organization</li> </ul> |  <p><b>Projects that help you become an inventor or to explore the effects of human invention on the world.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Create an original piece of art/music/literature</li> <li>◆ Design an original science experiment</li> <li>◆ Create jewelry/clothing/quilts</li> <li>◆ Develop a computer program or game</li> </ul>   |
| Environments   | Health and Social Education  |
|  <p><b>Projects that help you explore your relationship with the environment, how it affects you, and how you affect it.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Plant a garden</li> <li>◆ Research a solution to combat global warming</li> <li>◆ Implement a recycling plan in the community</li> <li>◆ Write a children's book to explain how our choices will impact future</li> </ul>                 |  <p><b>Projects that help you investigate personal, global, and societal issues and healthy decision-making.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Create a sport or game</li> <li>◆ Explore the impact of sports on the disabled</li> <li>◆ Shoot a documentary film to raise awareness of a global health issue</li> <li>◆ Write a magazine to help teens deal with specific issues</li> </ul> |

## What do I need to submit?

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A complete Personal Project has three elements: the project itself, the written statement, and the process journal. Each is important and each is required.



### The Product

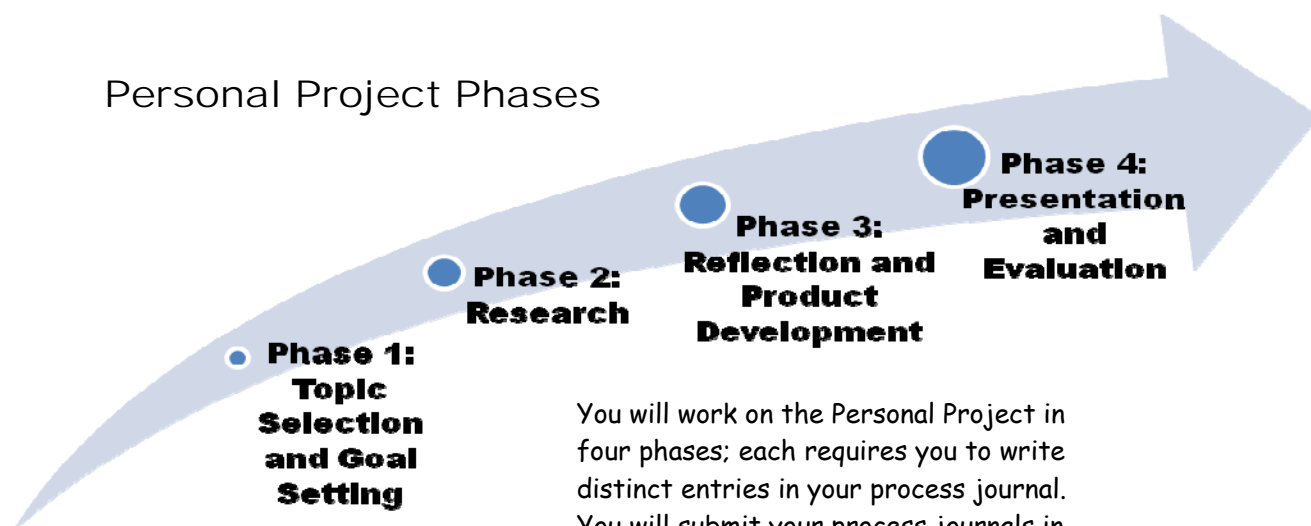
The main element of the Personal Project is the product you intend to create. As stated earlier, it may take a variety of physical forms based on the Area of Interaction you choose. If it is not something that may be submitted, such as a performance or community service project, **you should take pictures throughout the process to document your work.**

### Process Journal

Through each phase of the Personal Project, you will be responsible for maintaining a process journal to document the choices you made and an evaluation of why you made them. You will receive a set of journal prompts that directly relate to the sections of the reflection paper you will write after the creation of your product. You will submit your process journals to your English teacher on established dates that you will receive at the beginning of the year.

### Reflection Paper

All Personal Projects include a structured piece of writing that begins by defining the goals of your project, establishing the area of interaction on which you focused, and an outlining how you intend to achieve the goal. Next, you will describe the process of your work, analyze the inspiration and research that guided your work, and identify the findings you made through creating the product. Finally, you will conclude by reflecting on the impact of your project and the new perspectives it provided you.



You will work on the Personal Project in four phases; each requires you to write distinct entries in your process journal. You will submit your process journals in your English class after each phase.

# FIRST STEPS

*for students who did NOT start over the summer.*

To start with, you must define your topic and your goals. In doing so, you will need to decide what you want to create as your product, identify the area of interaction on which you will focus, and outline your goals for the project. An example of each entry is on the back of this page

## **Process Journal Phase 1 – Topic Selection and Goal Setting**

### **Journal #1**

Brainstorm a list of your five favorite interests.

What do you particularly like about each of those?

Identify one you would like to explore further as the topic of your Personal Project.

### **Journal #2**

Brainstorm three lists:

What do you already know about that topic? What do you want to know about that topic?

What sources may help you find information on this topic?

### **Journal #3**

Identify a realistic goal of what you want to create as your **product/project**. Make a list of questions or topics of information that you will need to gather to better understand your topic. Make a list of steps you would need to take to achieve your goals.

### **Journal #4**

Link your topic an Area of Interaction (Community and Service, Human Ingenuity, Environments, or Health and Social Education). Explain the connection between your topic and the Area of Interaction.

### **Journal #5**

Blend all the notes you wrote in your previous four journals into one paragraph which will ultimately act as the introduction to the **reflection paper** portion of your personal project.

- Define the goal of your project (and explain why you chose that goal)
- Identify the Area of Interaction that links to your project (and explain how it relates)
- Explain the steps you intend to take to achieve your goals

## Process Journal Phase 1—EXAMPLE

### Journal #1

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| My favorite things | Why I like them  |
| *Golf              | It's fun to use the science of club selection and course design to determine how to get the ball close to the hole   |
| Skiing             | I love being in the mountains  |
| Music              | I play the trumpet, and enjoy figuring out how to make music through the combination of different rhythms and chords |
| Literature         | I enjoy learning about other peoples' experiences in different parts of the world when I can't always travel there   |
| Football           | I have watched college football since birth and love cheering on my team   |

\*I want to explore golf further because it is one thing I enjoy but don't always understand.

### Journal #2

|   |   |
|---|---|
| What do you already know about that topic?                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I know what clubs cause the ball to go different distances and heights</li><li>• I know how to play</li><li>• I know what courses are considered "good courses" and why</li></ul>   |
| What do you want to know about that topic?                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who determines the design of a course?</li><li>• How are putting greens designed?</li><li>• What goes on inside of a golf club?</li><li>• What do the dimples on the ball do?</li></ul>   |
| What sources may help you find information on this topic? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I could talk to a golf course manager</li><li>• I could research the different companies that create clubs and balls</li><li>• I could research how a golf course is put together</li><li>• I could look at some of the college courses on golf course management</li></ul> |

### Journal #3

I want to design a putting green. I will need to play at a lot of golf courses this summer to take notes on what makes a putting green challenging. I will speak to the greens keepers at the golf courses to ask them what they do to maintain and change the greens. In addition, I will do some online research to see if I can find information on how the greens are created. Then, I will design a golf course green on paper and if I have the tools, I will make a miniature model out of clay and artificial grass.

### Journal #4

My topic most closely links to Human Ingenuity because I will be creating a product that affects individuals and society. I will also learn about the consequences, both positive and negative of what I have created.

### Journal #5

Through my personal project, I want to understand how the choices golf course designers make impact a golfer's performance on the putting green. This topic particularly interests me because I have never been a very good putter because I have a hard time reading the greens. By learning the process that goes into designing a golf green, I figure it will ultimately make me a better golfer. Plus, it is something that has always interested me and I'm excited to learn more about it. My project links to Human Ingenuity because I will be creating something and learning how that creation impacts individuals and ultimately the society of golfers. Thankfully, I love to golf, and the first part of my research will be to take notes on the different greens at the courses I will play this summer. I will ask to speak to the head greens keeper at each course and ask him or her questions about how it was designed, and who designed it. Then, I will do online research to learn about how greens are created all around the world, and hopefully I can learn some common elements that they use to make them more challenging. Then, I will use my research to create an interesting and challenging green as well as how to play it well. After that, I will try to create it from my plan with help from my mentor.