

# What is the Personal Project?

The **personal project** provides an excellent opportunity for students to produce a truly personal and creative product/outcome that demonstrates their learning in the MYP.

The personal nature of the project is important; the project should revolve around a global context that motivates and interests the individual student.

It consists of three main components:

1. a process journal
2. focused topic that leads toward a product/outcome
3. a report

The personal project is a required element for earning the MYP certificate. The final project with its components are scored on a scale of 1 (low) to 7 (high) based on published criteria. The project score is then factored into the overall total that determines the awarding of the MYP certificate.

Build a guitar



What is the Global Context for the project?

Students choose only one global context to define their goal.

Global Context	Example of related personal project
<b><i>Identities and Relationships</i></b>	How online identities impact offline relationships; a research essay
<b><i>Orientation in space and time</i></b>	Charting a family history through archives and representational statue
<b><i>Personal and cultural expression</i></b>	Video games as a form of cultural expression; a short film using five video games that shows how they are an expression of our culture
<b><i>Scientific and technical innovation</i></b>	Can stem cells replace organ transplants? an investigative report
<b><i>Globalization and sustainability</i></b>	The struggle for water in developing countries; an awareness campaign
<b><i>Fairness and development</i></b>	Asylum seekers and their right to live like us; a painting



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## Personal Project

The project can deal with virtually any topic of interest to the student, and the best projects reflect the student's special interests or abilities, hobbies, or concerns about particular issues. It enables the student to engage in practical explorations through a cycle on inquiry, action and reflection. The project is submitted with two pieces of written work, the process journal and the report.

The **process journal** is a diary kept throughout the planning and creation of the project. It documents the student's day-to-day progress, struggles, and accomplishments toward completion of the project. Students are strongly advised to make digital copies of their journals.

The **report** is the final spoken or written document and presentation that accompany the product/outcome. IB bases the bulk of the student's personal project grade on the report. The statement's format can take varied forms, and includes a presentation and a written document. All students completing the project will be guided through the specific presentation and written requirements by the personal project coordinator, English teachers, and project supervisors.



## Personal Project Assessment

The project is judged against these criteria:

### **A. Investigating**

**Students should:**

- i. define a clear goal and **global context** for the project, based on personal interests
- ii. identify prior learning and subject-specific knowledge relevant to the project
- iii. demonstrate research skills

### **B. Planning**

**Students should:**

- i. develop criteria for the product/outcome
- ii. plan and record the development process of the project
- iii. demonstrate self-management skills

### **C. Taking Action**

**Students should:**

- i. create a product/outcome in response to the goal, **global context** and criteria
- ii. demonstrate thinking skills
- iii. demonstrate communication and social skills.

### **D. Reflecting**

**Students should:**

- i. evaluate the quality of the product/outcome against their criteria
- ii. reflect on how completing the project has extended their knowledge and understanding of the topic and the **global context**
- iii. reflect on their development as IB learners through the project

## Project Management

The project is organized in four phases:

1. Topic proposal
2. Research
3. Development & Reflection
4. Presentation

Internal deadlines for completing each phase are set by the personal project coordinator and English teachers and are posted on the electronic classroom page in ManageBac.

The final projects are due in the fall of tenth grade and are showcased at a special evening event in November.

## School Support & Resources

We offer students many types of support for the personal project .

### Personal Project coordinator

*The Personal Project coordinator organizes the systems that supervisors and students need for the successful completion of the project, with the support and collaboration of the MYP Coordinator and school leadership team.*

### English teachers

*Students are guided in their understanding of the requirements, assessment and deadlines of the personal project in their 9th grade English classes.*

### Personal project supervisors

*Every student is assigned a faculty mentor to guide and advise the student during the creation of their project.*

### ManageBac

*Each student is registered on ManageBac, a password protected website for maintaining the process journal, communicating with supervisors, and recording MYP community service hours.*

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