**Getting Started Writing the Extended Essay**

Henrico HS IB Program

**Overview – THE EXTENDED ESSAY**

* Double spaced
* Arial 12-point type
* Final Paper is not to exceed 4000 words
* MLA as default style for in-text citations and Works Cited page

**Introduction (~500-1000 words)**

* This section must state your research question and place your question in a context – historical, social, scientific, artistic, and/or personal. Be wary of personal unless is it poignant or significant.
* This section also includes a justification of the relevance of this topic in the subject area you are studying. Why is it studied? Why is your question important – within its context as well as to the human condition-- to answer?
* This section must also include why and how the issues raised by your questions have contemporary relevance.
* This section should include the structure of your investigation and argument, whether as a single thesis to prove or a series of statements. (This investigation will first consider…It will then move on to… Following this, consideration will be given to…)
* **This section should use source material responsibly citing direct quotes, paraphrased material, specialized content or technical knowledge**.

**Investigation (~500-1000 words)**

* In all papers, this section will include a summary in paragraph form of the major sources you have consulted and a VERY brief summary of these sources’ stances are on what current debates within the discipline are on this subject.
* Literature, Visual Arts, Film and Theatre papers will discuss what forms of analysis were used on the primary texts and then may use this format by reviewing relevant literary criticism of the author and the text.
* Group 3 papers, especially history, politics, world studies, and psychology, must pay special attention to this section.
* Group 4 papers will discuss the research that lead up to the creation of the lab experiment parameters and what research has been done in this field so far as a prelude to your experiment
* All disciplines must use this section to show how the research investigation lead to the formation of the thesis, how it may have changed the original course of the investigation, what material may have been surprising or unexpected, and how this material informed your understanding of the topic.
* **This section should use source material responsibly citing direct quotes, paraphrased material, specialized content or technical knowledge**.