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# EE/RPPF

For use from May/November 2018

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Candidate personal code:

## Extended essay - Reflections on planning and progress form

**Candidate:** This form is to be completed by the candidate during the course and completion of their EE. This document records reflections on your planning and progress, and the nature of your discussions with your supervisor. You must undertake three formal reflection sessions with your supervisor: The first formal reflection session should focus on your initial ideas and how you plan to undertake your research; the interim reflection session is once a significant amount of your research has been completed, and the final session will be in the form of a viva voce once you have completed and handed in your EE. This document acts as a record in supporting the authenticity of your work. The three reflections combined must amount to no more than 500 words.

**The completion of this form is a mandatory requirement of the EE for first assessment May 2018. It must be submitted together with the completed EE for assessment under Criterion E.**

**Supervisor:** You must have three reflection sessions with each candidate, one early on in the process, an interim meeting and then the final viva voce. Other check-in sessions are permitted but do not need to be recorded on this sheet. After each reflection session candidates must record their reflections and as the supervisor you must sign and date this form.

### First reflection session

Candidate comments:

After my first reflection session with my supervisor, we decided my research question should have a more narrow focus on either the effects on a specific ecosystem or the effects on ecotourism within the National Park. Having spent a lot of time around Yellowstone National Park, I am very interested in understanding the effects of the reintroduction of wolves on ecotourism. After researching the topic further, I think the effects on ecotourism has more data available to use in my essay. I found several governmental websites and databases to find information on this topic. These reliable sources will provide the secondary data used in my essay. I will also attempt direct contact with Yellowstone National Park and the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center, located outside Yellowstone National Park. These primary sources could provide personal experience and additional data to support my research.

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**Interim reflection**

Candidate comments:

My research has been very successful so far. There are several reliable resources about the topic that have greatly contributed to my overall knowledge of the topic, and that I have used for my data collection and analysis. I have remained pretty consistent with my approach to the process because I haven't altered my research question significantly. Overall, I have been surprised with the amount of resources and data available. I realized that I have to consider and analyze a lot more data than I had previously thought. However, the significant amount of research that I have done for the project has greatly expanded my knowledge about ecology, ecosystems, and the economy of the greater Yellowstone area. Specifically, I have learned a lot about food chains/ webs and the domino effect of the absence of a keystone species. The research that I have done has definitely deepened my level of understanding of topics 2 and 3 from my Environmental Systems and Societies class.

Date:

Supervisor initials:

**Final reflection**

Candidate comments:

The process of writing the Extended Essay has helped me develop my research skills, my overall writing skills, and my analytical skills. I think my method of investigation and strategies were effective in leading me to a valid conclusion. However, I didn't reach out to any local businesses until the end of my investigation, which is something I believe I should've done more of and earlier on in the process. Additionally, if I could get access to more financial data, I think my conclusion would be even stronger. Despite these limitations, I think I have a lot of supporting data and research that has helped me reach a strong conclusion. In the end, my thesis was proven to be true; the reintroduction of grey wolves to Yellowstone National Park has stimulated significant economic activity in the area. Lastly, writing my Extended Essay on a topic related to my Environmental Systems and Societies course has further developed my interest in environmental studies, which is something I now want to go on and study in university.

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## Supervisor comments:

**Supervisor:** By submitting this candidate work for assessment, you are taking responsibility for its authenticity. No piece of candidate work should be uploaded/submitted to the e-Coursework system if its authenticity is in doubt or if contradictory comments are added to this form. If your text in the box below raises any doubt on the authenticity of the work, this component will not be assessed.

In the beginning of the process the candidate had a few ideas each related to the general topic of the reintroduction of the grey wolf, however after we chatted and they did a bit of research, they were able to focus the question to one that was acceptable for the expectations of the EE. The candidate is very well organized, worked to meet deadlines and seemed to enjoy the process and challenge of the EE. In our meetings they were always prepared and we discussed whether different bits of information were necessary here or there and continued to try to ensure that they kept their focus. While the EE relied on secondary data, the student used a variety of resources, many of which were data bases provided by governments (state, federal and local). They really had to pick a part a lot of different data sources to develop the picture required for their hypothesis. The overall product is well written, communicated clearly and I believe shows the amount of hard work put into the investigation. The candidate was truly driven by their interest in this topic and her knowledge of the area.



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