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EE/RPPF

For first assessment in 2018

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International Baccalaureate®
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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:

My initial question, which was about displaced women due to the conflict between the FARC and the Colombian government, had to be changed as I no longer had access to contacts that would help me find primary research through the UN Women project. I then changed my question to cover the socio-economic impacts that ex-rebels face in their reintegration process with the government agency for reintegration (ACR). I am now able to learn about post-conflict communities from a different perspective and conduct primary research.

I discussed issues that arose with keywords in my question with my supervisor and ended up not including the word "success" in my question as that would mean I would have to focus on ACR's goals instead of focusing the investigation on the socio-economic impacts ex-rebels face, which I find more interesting. Over the next few weeks I will email ACR and ask about the possibility of sending a survey to ex-rebels and interviewing an employee, as well as ask about access to the information ACR has been collecting. I will be analyzing and trying to emulate other indicators as a means to decide how I will measure socio-economic impacts in my investigation.

Date:

Supervisor initials:



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Interim reflection

Candidate comments:

I think I have found a good range of sources, most of them from the ACR or government websites, but from now on I will work on finding information that is less partial to make my investigation more balanced. In the meeting I was able to look over parts of my introduction and ask questions about referencing formats. Making correct in-text citations is especially difficult given my EE as many of my sources are in Spanish, including the titles and axis of the found raw data on ACRs website so I have had trouble not only translating the texts myself but finding a way to credit these sources.

I left with the plan to add in-text citations to my introduction first and then finish writing my methodology. I will then finalize the graphs made from the raw data available online. After this I will create questionnaires and send them out so that I am able to get primary research.

I have decided to change my investigations focus from "socio-economic impacts" to "quality of life" as I am using the Eurostat quality of life indicator.

Date:

Supervisor initials:

Final reflection - Viva voce

Candidate comments:

I believe I was able to explore the topic of reintegration thoroughly and am happy with my final result! If I could go back I would try to increase the sample size of the questionnaire I conducted and seek more primary qualitative information. This EE allowed me to learn more about the peace process and the history of my own country (Colombia) which I am grateful for. The independent aspect of the EE allowed me to grow and learn more about making my own questionnaires and analyzing data!

Date:

Supervisor initials:



Supervisor comments:

This investigation presented a unique and personal research experience for the candidate who is a citizen of the country in question, was born in a civil conflict zone, and has close family involvement in the peace settlement. Limited academic research on this topic presented a unique opportunity for the candidate to contribute to raising awareness of the issue of ex-combatant resettlement.

Initially, this investigation started out as a geography extended essay but during the introduction writing phase, upon supervisor advice, the candidate decided to pursue a world studies extended essay in order to be able to integrate a more in-depth historical account of the conflict.

The candidate drew on knowledge and understanding of the Human development index (HDI) and disparities in wealth and development from her geography studies. She also utilised questionnaire skills harnessed from the internal assessment component of the IB geography course. Her interest in the history of her country provided the incentive to undertake the historical aspect of the investigation.

The candidate is conscious that there were limitations in the primary data collection but was able to supplement this shortfall with supporting secondary information. The candidate reflected on a missed opportunity to undertake an interview with a key member of the ACR organisation and felt that she should have been more proactive. This would have allowed the candidate to inquire about the literacy program and security aspect of the relocation program.

The candidate has produced an extended essay that raises the often overlooked issue of ex-combatant resettlement whilst undertaking a journey of discovery about the conflict, peace settlement, and post conflict resolution of her own country.

