

English Extension 2 Tips

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Consider necessary skills needed

Seeing as the course is extension, it will expect you to go beyond your typical English Advanced skills. It instead requires you to be working to constantly to improve your skills in:

1. Writing
2. Researching
3. Editing
4. Critical thinking
5. Organisational skills

These skills are crucial throughout the course. If to say you haven't already honed in on these skills it may be worth considering how you can do so, before embarking on a year long project.

Start ASAP

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It would be safe to say that majority of us loathe the idea of doing any work during our precious holidays... However for this course, getting started ASAP is extremely important! Since this project is typically due before trials, it needs to be finished quite early. Also, you want to make sure that the project is not just finished the day before, but that it has been proofread, edited and also read by a *wide range of people* before submission!

Some helpful tips to make sure you start ASAP include:

1. Begin brainstorming, planning and researching from day one
2. Have people to talk to about your project to see if it sounds feasible (not to mention interesting!)
3. Make a timeline or a checklist on what you want to achieve each week - it may sound a bit over the top during week 1 of the project, but it will eliminate stress later down the track...

Dive into deep research

Research, research, research - there isn't really much more to say. But in all seriousness, it is so important to research - not just so information is accurate and correct, but also so that you are exposed to wide variety of perspectives and ideas, that ultimately will make your work more interesting. Research often is a great for sparking new ideas and directions for writing so be sure to do it well (and more than once...!)

Research can also be done in a variety of ways, including, but not limited to:

1. Researching via online databases (which may allow you to engage with academic papers)
2. Watching a variety of television shows and movies (that obviously relate to the topic 🤔) and analyse them according to your concept/piece
3. Visiting libraries (especially the State Library) as there is often a wide range of content to explore, not to mention very helpful librarians who often have extensive knowledge
4. Talk to people! Interview people with experiences related to your topic - often lived experiences and stories can be intriguing ways to find out new things or depict the issue in a new light
5. Read past extension 2 papers. This is helpful for getting a feel for how it is done, and it is also just reassuring to know that it has been done before!
6. Google - it is extremely helpful and can answer things quickly. However, be sure to go beyond Google.

Pick what aligns with your passion

This project will go very slowly if you don't really LOVE the topic you are doing. The same goes for the form. If you don't love creative writing it may be better to go with a speech or a critical essay. Do what you are good at and what you will thoroughly enjoy the project much more. After all, we do seem to spend much more time at what we are good at/enjoy...

If you're not sure what exactly you are passionate about, research!

If you're not sure exactly what form you're best at, consider what you feel most comfortable writing and be sure to ask someone - particularly your teachers!

The journal shouldn't be a second thought

The journal may be easy to forget - seeing as it doesn't have to fit a word limit. However it should still be worked on consistently as it helps ensure that you haven't plagiarised

Some ways to make sure the journal is done well is to:

1. Make it neat-
 - a. Of course it can still be creative and filled with images and littered with random ideas, but it is helpful for the marker if it is legible and the overall content discernable
2. Make time for it
 - a. Whether you work on it during a Friday afternoon or a Monday morning, be sure to work on the journal *at least once a week*, any longer and you may not be able to remember what it was you did the week before...
3. Have all the necessary information within the journal - especially your student number!

The same goes for the reflection statement...

The reflection statement is 10% of your external mark, which may seem rather trivial compared to the 40% major work... Nevertheless, it still can determine your overall mark so it's worth not leaving until the night before

Be sure it:

1. Summarises the intention of the major work and the relationship it has with the extensive, independent investigation
2. Outlines who is intended to read this (the audience) as well as the purpose for which it was composed - and be specific; ideally it won't be intended for everyone...
3. Supports the major work, explaining the relationships of; concept, structure, technical and language features and conventions
4. Explains the development of concepts overtime, making the *clear* links between independent investigation and the development of the finished product
5. Discuss and justify your form - why choose the form you did? Why was it the best possible option?

Resources which may be helpful for you:

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Exemplary extension 2 projects:

<https://arc2.nesa.nsw.edu.au/view/byband/course/15170?f=band:Exemplary>

https://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus_hsc/stds-matl/english-ext-2-sm.html

Tips from students who have completed the project and excelled:

<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/content/reflection-statements>