

## **Tips for writing your FYP**

1. Get it into your head that it may be difficult to find relevant articles, books etc. Many students make the mistake of thinking they should be writing from day 1. Writing may well not take place for a month!
2. You also need to accept that this is a long-term piece of work to be completed over 3-4 months, accept this, break it into manageable chunks, set deadlines for each section and adhere to the deadlines agreed with your supervisor.
3. It's normal to spend a couple of hours either in the library or on-line and not find very much relevant to your topic. Don't stress out over this everyone is the same!
4. Use a filing system to help you. Whatever suits you. It can be digital folders, cardboard folders or a combination of both. Place all articles covering similar topics together.
5. Research articles are not an easy read and are not meant to be read like a good thriller! Read through the abstract, see if it could be relevant. If not move to next one! If relevant, speed read the remainder highlighting important areas as you read. Then go back and read it again. Take notes to help.
6. Following a lot of reading you the project should begin to take shape in your mind. At this stage start thinking about what the main headings will be. Within those main headings will be sub headings that should be used to break up the larger headings into manageable 'chunks' providing the reader with a logical layout. Your sub headings should always relate to your Heading within which it sits. This will help provide your document with a logical flow and coherency.
7. Each section should end with a sentence or two that leads the reader into the next section in a logical manner.
8. Your first attempt should only be a draft. This will change as you read more and it's easier to change things when you have them written rather than trying to change a blank page!
9. Read sentences aloud to check if they need commas or require fragmentation.
10. Always, always, always get a couple of friends or colleagues to proof-read your project. They should be looking for typos, spelling errors and how it reads. If they get lost and can't follow your logic, then more than likely the corrector won't be able either!
11. Take the advice of your in-class supervisors. They have read through many projects and advised many students, they will put you right!