



FIRST ASSIGNMENT: INDEPENDENT DIRECTED STUDIES



IDS

Welcome to SCIDES Independent Directed Studies 10, 11 or 12

(the grade level will be determined with your teacher during the contract writing process)

Legal last name:	_____	Cell Phone #:	_____
Other last name:	_____	Home phone#:	_____
First name:	_____	Parent or guardian email:	_____
Middle name:	_____	Other School attending:	_____
Student Email:	_____		

Instructions: This assignment is intended to take approximately 5 - 10 hours to complete. It is worth 10% of your final grade for the course, so complete it carefully:

1. Read each question carefully before answering
2. Answer all questions to the best of your ability, and in your own words. Plagiarized assignments will not be accepted, and you will not be registered in the course.
3. Take your time and explore all of the resources. You will receive a higher mark on your First Assignment if you include your learning from the readings and resources provided.
4. When you have completed this assignment, submit it via the DROP BOX file in the IDS Moodle course.

Office Use Only

Assignment total: /100

Teacher Feedback:



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Welcome to SCIDES Independent Studies (IDS) 10-12

Welcome to your Independent Studies Course! In this course, YOU are essentially in charge of your own curriculum and your own learning (with the help and guidance of your teacher)! You will choose the content that interests you most and create a critical or inquiry question based on a passion you want to explore further.

Let's get started! You will need to go through answering some broad questions before you can narrow in on your focus question.

A **Critical Question** is an inquiry question that promotes the skills of evaluating, analyzing and synthesizing, the "higher order" thinking abilities. It may take several tries to arrive at a question demanding those skills beyond the simple recall of fact.

Your Critical Question should:

- Promote making personal connections to your topic
- Promote original thought; not simply finding stuff about your topic
- Encourage you to draw conclusions and make decisions supported by information you discover
- Encourage you to USE your knowledge and skills
- Be "narrow" enough to research comfortably
- Be worded clearly and precisely to communicate what you really want to learn

Examples of Critical Questions might include:

- Are racing drivers athletes?
- Are the changing weather patterns effecting wild animal habitats?
- Would London, England's public transit system work in Vancouver?
- Are ancient, Middle-Eastern cultures influencing our daily Canadian lives?

Different from the Critical Question is the Information Retrieval Question. Based on the examples above, some examples of Information Retrieval Questions might be:

- How does day-to-day fitness training for racing drivers compare with that of hockey players? When they are "at work", how do their heart rates compare?
- Is London's transit system funded the same way Vancouver's is? Is there the same number of busses per capita?
- Which ancient Middle-Eastern rituals are still practiced in Canada? By whom?



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Now it's your turn! Let's have a look at how you can land on a critical question in your interest area. To start your Independent Studies Course, brainstorming and answering some broad questions will help you develop a strong and inquisitive critical question.

What current interest areas do you have? Create a list of 5-10 broad interest areas. For example, Football, Piano, Cooking, etc.

From the list above, choose 3 interest areas and for each area create a more detailed list. For example, if you choose football, your more detailed list might include; refereeing, defensive coaching tactics and kicking mechanics.

Interest #1:

Interest #2:

Interest #3:

Now, from that detailed list of 3's, choose one interest area and narrow it down to one specific point from your list. This will be your focus area for your Independent Study. Feel free to alter your thoughts from the above lists as you see fit.



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It is time for you to develop your critical question around the specific interest area in the above box. Take your time with this. Make sure your question encompasses something specific that you want to better understand, learn about or begin to master. This is an introduction to a specific area in which you wish to gain more knowledge and can be built upon in future studies and practice.

Finding Appropriate Learning Outcomes

In order to help you focus on a particular aspect of the curriculum that you wish to pursue independently, you will use your critical question to guide you to specific learning outcomes that may be associated with your question and your course path. To do this, you must first become familiar with a topic that is connected to the British Columbia curriculum of your choice.

Step 1: Curriculum Connection

You probably already know which curricular area you want to do your independent studies work in as it based on your critical question. Now you need to become familiar with the learning outcomes of your curricular area. These learning outcomes can be found on the British Columbia Ministry of Education website.

[BC Ministry of Education Learning Outcomes](#)

For example, let us assume that you are interested in doing some independent work in Music and that you are in Grade 10. You will find that there is a course called Music 10. After you have read through the learning outcomes for that course, select the outcomes that you are interested in exploring further:

For example:

Music 8 - 10 Thoughts, Images, and Feelings

It is expected that students will create, listen to, and perform music, demonstrating understanding and appreciation of the thoughts, images, and feelings it expresses.



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It is expected that students will:

- apply the elements of music to interpret and represent a broad range of thoughts, images, and feelings
- demonstrate a willingness to share personal insights arising from experiences with music
- analyze and communicate thoughts, images, and feelings about music that relate to social, historical, and political issues
- defend personal music choices, demonstrating awareness of the thoughts, images, and feelings the music expresses
- demonstrate respect for and understanding of the diversity of thoughts, images, and feelings evident in culturally, historically, and stylistically diverse music

Step 2: Building on the Critical Question

Your task in this assignment has been to develop the critical question for your independent studies. Before you begin further work, it is important that you understand how your chosen learning outcomes relate to your critical question.

What is a critical question?

A critical question is a question that involves higher order thinking skills such as evaluating, analyzing and synthesizing. Sometimes it takes several tries before you get a question that demands the kind of thinking that goes beyond just recalling information. A critical question should:

- Allow you to make personal connections
- Require critical thought rather than the simple retrieval of information
- Allow you to draw conclusions or make judgments that can be supported by the researched information
- Provide opportunities for original thinking
- Allow you to apply knowledge and skill
- Be narrow enough in scope to research appropriately
- Be worded so that the meaning is clear and precise

Some examples of critical questions are:

- Is Buddhism a religion?
- Which animal is more valuable to the Inuit - the caribou or the seal?



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Some examples of information retrieval questions:

- Find out about Buddhism.
- Select an arctic animal and write a report about its characteristics and habitat

Make sure you understand the difference between critical questions and information retrieval questions.

Developing a critical question is hard work and will take many tries. Get feedback on your critical question from your teacher before you begin your studies.

Critical Question (may be the same as above or may be revised after going through the process):

Learning Outcomes (from above, make sure they match as best as possible your critical question):

Choosing a mentor: You will need someone to help you with your learning, and provide confirmation that you have completed the required activities as set out in your contract (which you will negotiate with your teacher).

Possible mentors could include:

- Community leaders
- Coaches
- Elders
- Employers
- Site supervisors
- Professionals in the field



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My mentor is:

Their contact information:

You have now completed the IDS First Assignment. Please add this form and all supporting documents to the STEP 2 DROP BOX in the IDS Moodle classroom.