



If $e=mc^2$, does
TOK=SOL?

WRITING THE TOK ESSAY

(It's not as bad as you think!)

First Things First...

What does it have to be about?

You can choose any one of the six prescribed titles (topics), just don't try anything fancy. You are not allowed to modify the title in any way. If you do, IB may reject your essay and refuse to score it.

How Long Does it Have to Be?

AT LEAST

1,200 words

(no 1,000 words is not enough, neither is 1,199)

NO MORE THAN

1,600 words

(I don't care how great it is, no one wants to read more than that.)

Can I count the bibliography toward my word count?

NO!

But, the good news is, this isn't a research paper, so you may not need a lot of sources.

When you do structure your bibliography, make sure its consistent.

Use a reliable sourcing method: MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.

So, How much help Can I get?

As your teacher, its my job to do whatever I have to in order for you to be successful.

IB allows me to edit ONE draft of your essay, but I'm always here for guidance and advice.

Where do I start?

Pick your title carefully.

This is not as easy as it sounds. Read them all. Put them into your own words, then, read them again.

Do you understand what you're being asked. Really? Are you sure?

Know the question before you try to formulate the answer.

Where do I find **THE ANSWER**?

Remember, this isn't a research paper. **THE ANSWER** doesn't exist unless you create it.

Draw on personal experience. Give it some thought. Can you relate it back to your TOK course, CAS opportunities or other classes?

Think broadly. Draw connections between Ways and Areas.

Spent a little time here. Let the ideas percolate in your brain for a couple of days.

These questions are hard!

These questions are hard, so your answer won't be simple. If you agree with a conclusion, don't forget to address alternate arguments.

Think of the paper like a game or a debate on paper. Your reader wants to see you outwit and out reason your opponent.

Any last minute tips to remember?

- * Keep your thesis in front of you while writing. Don't lose yourself in the topic, stay focused
- * Don't spend too long on the intro. Be concise and get to the point.
- * Do not rely on the dictionary. Quoting Webster's is obnoxious and it doesn't settle anything.
- * Remember, quotes from famous people are NOT proof of anything. Even if they are awesome.
- * Draw on a variety of cultures for examples. International, remember?
- * Don't use worn out examples.
- * You can use I!!!
- * **CHECK YOUR FACTS**
- * Make sure your conclusion is coherent. It should tie back into the thesis you presented at the beginning.

So when is it due?

- * You'll turn this paper in in three phases
 - * Your title choice and proposal are due February 5
 - * Rough draft (I can only read one) are due February 17
 - * Your final draft is due March 5.
- * **THERE WILL NOT BE ANY LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED FOR ANY REASON AT ALL. THIS DEADLINE IS FINAL, AND I MUST TURN IN ALL PAPERS ON THIS DATE TO MRS. MORTON!!!**