

Looking back on preparing for and writing my extended essay, I realize one of the most important aspects is selecting a topic about which you are quite passionate. A lot of time is devoted to this paper, so the more you appreciate your topic, the easier it is to do what it takes to produce a strong paper. I immersed myself in Macbeth to the point that the paper coincided with me directing a production of the play. And my interest in filmmaking gave me even more incentive to dig deep into my topic.

I also found the dedication and direction of Ms Lambrakopoulos, my TOK teacher, really helped me take the paper one step at a time. Even with a well-defined thesis, a topic can become overwhelming—there’s always something else to research, another angle to take. So, having help to stay focused and organized was most appreciated.

Finally, my extended essay continues to play a part in my academic life as I study at Tisch School for the Arts at New York University. In the lighting design class I am taking as an elective in college, my knowledge of Macbeth has been extremely beneficial, as our semester project is to research and design the lighting for Macbeth, something which I already did for my own production, which was inspired by my study of the play for the extended essay. I even used some of the screen grabs from my paper in my class presentation and I could already discuss analytically the lighting choices made by the film directors of Macbeth that were mentioned in the lighting class.