

Extended Essay (Anthropology)

Cultural Anthropology is the specific study of cultural similarities and differences wherever and in whatever form in which they may be found. Students who take IB Anthropology during their junior year may choose to write their Extended Essay on Anthropology. However, it is possible for a student to not take the class and write their EE on Anthropology.

Similar to anthropology essays done in class, you will have to compare and contrast between different or similar cultures/ethnographies. Most Anthropology EEs are based on similarities and differences in a certain aspect of the culture. For example, you can choose two different cultures and figure out the similarities and differences in terms of their livelihood, how they deal with sickness, how they have changed over time, etc.

The Anthropology EE will have the same structure as the essays students need to write in their class. So, for the **introduction**, you will introduce the two cultures and provide some background information, similar to how you will write an anthropology essay for tests. In the first body paragraph, it is important to compare the anthropologists, the various fieldwork methods they used, the historical time period and its importance, the theoretical perspective of the anthropologists, etc. Since the EE will be focused on similarities and differences, it is important not to forget about these important pieces of information. You should always compare and contrast the above aspects of the two ethnographies.

The **second and third body paragraphs** can be structured in two different ways:

1. Write the 2nd body paragraph focusing on one of the ethnographies and the 3rd body paragraph on the other. However, make sure to bring in the other ethnography in the 3rd body paragraph to compare and contrast.
2. You can split the information into two sections, thus into two body paragraphs. Suppose, your essay is about comparing how two different cultures deal with their sicknesses, and you divide the information into two sections: how their healing practices are related to their beliefs, and how it has changed over time. In the 2nd body paragraph, you can compare and contrast both of the cultures' healing practices. For the 3rd paragraph, you can write about the similarities and differences between the two cultures, focusing on how each of them changed over time.

The **conclusion** will be the same as any other anthropology essay. However, since this is a research paper and it doesn't have a thesis, in the beginning, it is necessary to summarize the

main ideas of the paper. You can also use this paragraph to identify any limitations of this research.

I know this is a very long paper. But, if anthropology is something that interests you, then you should be able to enjoy this process. Good luck with your EE!

- Novera Hasnat