Preparing for the Initial Reflection Session

This initial reflection session should be a dialogue between the student and the supervisor based on the student’s initial explorations. It is recommended that the student sends their supervisor an outline of their discussion proposal ahead of the meeting in order to give the supervisor the opportunity to review their work. Topics of discussion that should arise during this session include:

- a review of the requirements and assessment criteria for the subject
- a review of ethical and legal implications, if applicable
- a dialogue about possible approaches and any potential problems that might arise
- a discussion of strategies for developing the student’s ideas for the essay and expanding the research so that the essay starts to take form
- probing and challenging questions that will help the student focus their thinking; this should lead to the development of the student’s working research question
- an outline of the next steps that the student should undertake in order to refine their question; this should take the form of a research and writing timeline. Source: EE Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RRS</th>
<th>Background Research</th>
<th>Questions/Ideas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Look for initial: ideas, interests, plans (bring excerpts, mind maps etc. as evidence to discuss)</td>
<td>Main sources Evaluation/relevance of sources Essential findings? (key quotations to discuss)</td>
<td>Potential areas of focus Potential RQ’s Further research needs /areas for inquiry Areas of concern Methodologies Ethical considerations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CRITERION E (What they’re looking for)

**Engagement with the process:** the student is able to reflect on and refine the research process, and react to insights gained through the exploration of their research question; the student is able to evaluate decisions made throughout the research process and suggest improvements for their own working practices.

**Engagement with their research focus:** an insight into the student’s thinking, intellectual initiative and creative approach through reflections on the thought and research process; the extent to which the student voice is present rather than that of the supervisor and academics; is the student's engagement reflected?

For more info, check Moodle, the pathfinder and the EE Guide