Top Talks Documentary

**Maxine McKew – MC (presenting offscreen)**

Extended Investigation requires students to conduct detailed research into a subject of their choice, produce a written thesis and then present and defend their arguments in an oral presentation. Now this requires students to extend themselves beyond their written reports, to demonstrate understanding in real time and, of course, to face down an unpredictable set of questions.

**Katherine Quinn – Project Manager, VCA Curriculum(interview)**

VCE Extended Investigation is one of the suite of studies

we have as part of the VCE. It is quite a unique study because it is

focused on the idea of investigation. So whereas with other VCE studies there is often a significant amount of content that the students must ensure they take on and work with, but for VCE Investigation it's very much directed by the student, and teacher is more there to facilitate this wonderful topic that they take on to develop a question and then work through a process of researching it, analysing the outcome, and then being able to present it to an audience both in writing and orally.

**Micah Wilkins – Chief Assessor, Extended Investigation (interview)**

VCE in many ways is designed around this idea of convergent thinking so everyone sits and they learn the same thing and you memorise some stuff and then you sit an exam at the end, whereas EI totally disrupts that.

**Luca Irmici – Student Presenter (presenting)**

The question my research seeks to ask is: do East-Timorese students currently studying in Melbourne think that remembering and acknowledging their country's recent past, the Indonesian occupation, plays a part in the emergence of a national identity?

**Luca Irmici (interview)**

I definitely had huge ideas at the start and I went around laps of the school with my teachers pacing around, I'd go "I've got this new idea", and he'd go "alright we're going for a walk" and we'd go outside to the school and we'd just walk around the school discussing- I'd throw this huge major idea again and he'd say "alright... yes, but here's how you can make it a bit more concise, better, maybe not better but something that is doable throughout this process”.

**Micah Wilkins (interview)**

So I have four hours of EI every single week of class time and there might only be one hour where there is direct teaching like another class, and the other three are one-on-one conversations with students, because all of them need some specific feedback for their topic.

**Stephanie Barito – Student Presenter (interview)**

I really liked the balance that there was between independent learning and having one-on-one time with your teachers and with your friends. I think that's the good thing about EI, it's got a good balance, and also it's really different to other subjects in that sense, in that a lot of it is self-directed.

**Stephanie Barito (presenting)**

Recently however, a new and unconventional treatment for infected plants has begun to surface within agricultural science; and that is the use of light.

**Ryan Walker – Student Presenter (interview)**

I think Extended Investigation teaches you a lot of basic skills that help you out in life, alongside the fundamentals of Extended Investigation. So I think things like self-discipline and independent work and initiative are all key skills that you help foster

through Extended Investigation.

**Stephanie Barito (interview)**

Well I learnt a lot of skills, a lot of time management skills, an ability to work on my own. But I think EI also taught me how to be confident in myself and how to make decisions.

**Ryan Walker (interview)**

And then there is the basics of EI, things like reporting and how to do research, I think that's a really big one that'll help me out in the future, how to find research articles that are relevant.

**Ryan Walker (presenting)**

This has reached the extent where the productivity commission estimates that 20% of new jobs in the next three years will need to be in the disability sector, with growth currently "way too slow".

**Madison Schenk – Extended Investigation Student Alumna(interview)**

So I'm currently studying a double degree in law and global studies at Monash University, and the skills that I learnt while doing Extended Investigation helped me in so many ways in university, from referencing and researching to academic writing, being self-motivated they all come into play in a university setting.

**Katherine Quinn (interview)**

The students often walk away from VCE Extended Investigation with a far more increased understanding that being able to be analytical and thoughtful about ideas, rather than simply having an opinion, is incredibly valued in the modern world.

**Kailyn O’Connor – Student Presenter (presenting)**

To check if students would use recycling bins if provided, and if signage would decrease contamination or promote further recycling, I conducted three bin trials in two high traffic locations within the school.

**Katherine Quinn (interview)**

For many students, undertaking VCE Extended Investigation gives them a wonderful opportunity to learn how to manage themselves over time, how to meet goals, how to work to timelines.

**Kailyn O’Connor (interview)**

Leaving things to the last minute was probably the worst thing you could do, but I think I did that a little bit with my methods. I think you need to get your method done early as possible because that's going to help you so much because when it comes to the end you need your method and results to be written up to formulate an answer to your question.

**Ryan Walker (interview)**

Probably the biggest challenge with my research topic was simply choosing it. It took me a long time to figure out first off what I liked and then find an area which I could investigate within that research topic.

**Katherine Quinn (interview)**

VCE Extended Investigation gives students this very powerful experience to understand that a road to success absolutely includes experiences of failure. And how you manage that, how you respond to it, how you accept the unexpected and move forward from that.

**Stephanie Barito (presenting)**

Now 100 is quite far off 50, so there was definitely something wrong here. And this discrepancy suggested that there was some key difference between the conduct of my experiment and that of other researchers that I had overlooked.

**Luca Irmici (interview)**

But definitely at the end, once you have this body of research, you feel so... this is my first body of research that I've ever done, my first piece of something that I've completely finished.

**Kailyn O’Connor (interview)**

Finding your results for the project was one of the most exciting things, because you had your own research, and you found like, this is what I found and you learn a bit more in the process about what your studying in, that school, for me for example, I found out things about my school and I was able to actually put a plan into place afterwards that would help my school achieve something that I wanted to achieve, so it was a good feeling with that.

**Katherine Quinn (interview)**

VCE Extended Investigation enables students who maybe have a passion or an area of interest that they simply haven't been able to access during their senior secondary years that they can actually take on and study in depth.

**Micah Wilkins (interview)**

I also tell the students that in no other subject can you, at the end of the year, hold something in your hands and throw it on the table,

and step back and go "I did that".

**Katherine Quinn (interview)**

If you're looking for an educational experience that will carry you through the rest of your life, that you will remember, this is it.