

At first glance, this research question could have been easily seen as too broad to be discussed within the word limit, however, the student has undertaken in-depth research into a few well-chosen areas of influence, such as the specialization of theatre and broadening of actors' roles, popular culture and theatre changing demographics, and marketing and consumerism among others, making it possible for her to focus appropriately.

Instead of narrowing down to one geographic area or looking across a single theatrical demographic, the student has chosen to broaden the search in order to allow for a more general debate. Frequently, such an approach is risky for an extended essay as it may result in a flawed, over-generalized argument. The student avoids this by keeping the topic sufficiently debate-based; the issue of whether or not technology and modern life in the age of globalism have negatively impacted on small private theatre companies is a universal one and by allowing voices from varied theatrical traditions to be heard equally in the debate the student has successfully established a platform upon which she could discuss the issue from the broader western perspective.

This five-strand structure has been successfully followed throughout the entire extended essay and each of the identified issues has been discussed separately. The student offers clear evidence of research throughout the essay; she illustrates her claims from a broad range of appropriate sources that have been carefully selected. All of the citations are clearly attributed and presented in an appropriate and easily recognized reference style.

Where the extended essay is lacking is in a demonstration of the knowledge and understanding of the topic. While still offered at a commendable level, the essay at times suffers from an ideological stance that cannot be fully supported, for example, when the student mentions Keira Knightley and James Earl Jones being cast in *Misanthrope* and *Cat on A Hot Tin Roof* respectively, she opines that this is due to their marketability rather than talent, and in this manner she offers a value judgment rather than an analytical point. Such slip-ups are few and far between in this essay though, and on the whole the student presents a well balanced, reasoned and convincing argument in a coherent and logical manner and shows an ability to apply appropriate analytical and evaluative skills in an effective and sophisticated manner.