



What are the Areas of Interaction?



The Areas of Interaction form the unique core of the Middle Years Programme. All learning in the MYP is framed by these five Areas of Interaction (A.O.I.). They provide connections between the different subject areas, and between classroom learning and real life.

Every unit in the MYP, whether Mathematics, Physical Education or Humanities, is set in the context of one of the Areas of Interaction. The five A.O.I. are **Approaches to Learning, Community & Service, Health & Social Education, Environments,** and **Human Ingenuity.**

For example, a unit on the immune system in Biology could be approached through several AOI. We could examine the immune system through the perspective of Health & Social Education (How do my choices impact my immune system? How does this affect my health?) Another possibility is to use Environments. (How do various environments either discourage or encourage immune system responses?) Also, Community & Service could be used. (How can we improve immune systems in our community?)

By using the AOI to frame a context for learning, the immune systems ceases to be merely an academic topic, and instead is applicable to the real world.

In addition, consider if students were studying personal health in Physical Education, using Health & Social Education as the framing AOI. This would provide a natural link for interdisciplinary work between the two subjects.

Or perhaps students in Humanities class were learning about the physical environment and pollution through the Environments AOI. This would allow students to discover the natural links between Humanities and Sciences while investigating the link between environments and our immune system.



The Areas of Interaction also play a crucial role in a student's Personal Project (P.P.). This project is the culminating activity for each MYP student. Each PP must have an Area of Interaction at its core.

The AOI are a fundamental and unique component of the MYP, and each AOI will be visited in detail in future MYP Minutes.

Questions on Grades?

The next issue of the MYP Minute will be on Assessment, just as you will be receiving interim reports! Send any questions on grades or marking in the MYP to Jeff Holcomb on the Moshi Campus (jeffh@ismoshi.net) or Steve Brown on the Arusha Campus (steveb@ismac.ac.tz).

Coming up in The Moshi MYP Minute:

- *Assessment in the MYP explained*
- *The Areas of Interaction: Part II*
- *What is MYP Technology?*

Sources Cited:

International Baccalaureate. (2008) *MYP: From Principles to Practice*. Cardiff: Peterson House.