Reflection 3:
When I decided that I was going to be writing my extended essay on history, I knew that I wanted to research Lebanese history. I am familiar with minor details of events that have occurred throughout the course of Lebanon's history, but I think one event that can have a meaningful and deep analysis made on it is the civil war that occurred during 1975. There are various long-term and immediate causes of this war, and the course of the war was extensive and had extreme consequences on the country's diplomacy and overall on Lebanon as a nation. Based on the process in which I have studied history in school through the IB, a major way of assessing the war is looking at what actually caused the war. I decided to utilize this approach in order to come up with a research question. After some general research about the civil war, I began to notice a pattern, which was that much of the blame was attributed to religious causes, as well as a group called the Palestinian Liberation Organization, also known as the PLO. Thus, I decided to question how much the PLO really is to be blamed.

Reflection 5:
After much research, yet with plenty to go, I have found a few monographs that have proved extremely beneficial in allowing me to answer my research question accordingly. Samir Kassir's monograph titled Beirut is probably the best source I have found thus far. The way I typically approach research with a monograph is by looking through its index and using any information available that pertains to my research question. With Beirut, there is a plethora of information that really allows me to understand all the minor details of what was happening at the time. I also think it is beneficial that Kassir is a native himself, and he experienced pre-war Lebanon, the war, and its aftermath. Although he does not include any personal accounts of the war, being there gives him quite a bit of credibility in my opinion. In addition to that, he does not present the facts in a biased fashion at all, and I think that is important to take into consideration when using a monograph that basically tells you most of what you need to know.