



Passions Project

Secondary Lesson Plan

Passions:

Passions reflect intense enthusiasm and excitement for something. They are often the inspiration behind an individual's motivation and energy. Passions propel a person to pursue activities, careers, or causes that they find deeply fulfilling and enjoyable. When a student's work or activities align with their passions, they are more likely to experience a strong sense of satisfaction and purpose.

Objective:

Students will be able to form a driving question, organize research, compose a presentation, and share their findings about a topic they are passionate about.

Materials:

Passions Project Proposal Guide, devices or computers for students (materials will vary depending on students' projects).

Activity Steps:

- Determine platforms or venues where students can share their projects, insights, challenges, successes, and recommendations (e.g., student-led conferences, Carnival of Knowledge, Passions Showcase, school website, etc.).
- Before introducing the activity, decide on specific guidelines for the project in your classroom, such as:
 - ♦ How much time will students have for their projects? Some teachers recommend one hour per week. Other teachers allocate 20 percent of classroom time (this could be one class period out of five) for a set time frame.
 - ♦ Design benchmarks and reflections for students. Search [Passion Projects](#) on Teachers Pay Teachers for more information.
 - ♦ Modify an existing rubric or create a rubric that meets your needs.
- Warm-up discussion: What is something you have always wanted to learn about? Why are you curious about that topic?
- Show your students [this video](#) about two students who combined their passion for robotics and their desire to help address the problem of mental illness to make a difference.

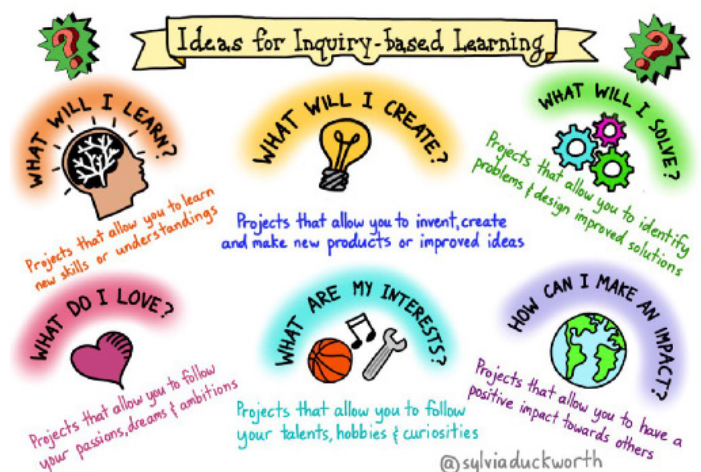
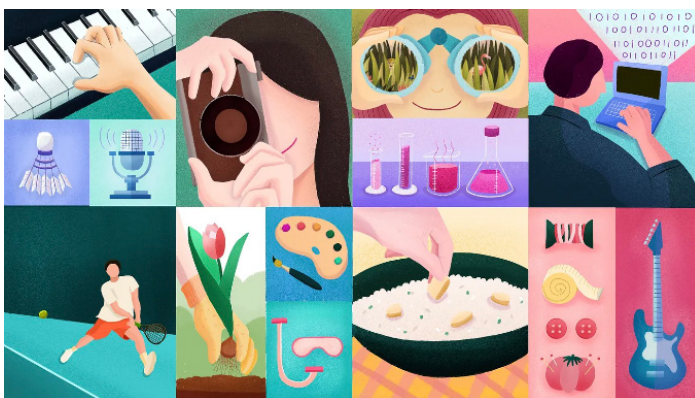
- Invite students to focus on their own passions, interests, and talents. Allow students ample time to brainstorm ideas for their passions project. If a student is struggling to list interests, prompt them to list five things they love to do, five things they are curious about, and five things they are good at.
- Have students complete the Passions Project Proposal Guide.
- Have students work with a partner to refine their inquiry-based driving question. Check to be sure questions have sufficient depth and breadth. Once the question is well formed, instruct students to begin researching.
- Explain to students that the project must involve research. Specify research guidelines.
- Upon completion, projects should be shared with the class and/or in a global way. Encourage students to share their project in a creative way. Students must also explain the process of developing and researching their passions project.

Personal Reflection:

- Why can researching your own question sometimes be more interesting than researching questions a teacher assigns?
- What was the most rewarding part of your passions project?
- What was the most challenging part?
- How do your personal passions connect to your purpose as a human?

Group Discussion:

- You are a genius. The world needs your contribution. What are you teaching or contributing to the world? How did your project help to make a difference in the world?
- View the [Kid President's Pep Talk to Teachers and Students!](#) video. What have you learned from your classmates?



Name: _____

Passions Project Proposal Guide

1. What is your proposed topic? State your driving question.
2. Why is this question important to you?
3. What do you hope to learn?
4. What kind of research do you think will help you?
5. What materials will you need?
6. How do you plan to share your project?
7. How can the teacher and other students support you in your project?