



Genius Gallery

Curiosity & Creativity:

Asking “Why?” and “Why not?” about the world around you. Students will independently explore and research what they are curious about and share their findings.

Objective:

Students will be able to form an inquiry-based question, research, and share findings about a topic they are curious about.

Materials:

Paper; technology for researching; individual materials may vary depending on project.

Steps:

- Before the lesson, read [*What Is Genius Hour And How Can I Try It in My Classroom?*](#) for inspiration.
- Present an invitation to the class: You are to attend and present at the Genius Gallery. Inform students that they are going to have the opportunity to learn and share about anything they want!
- Allow students to brainstorm a list of things they are curious about. Have students partner up and share some of their answers. Next, share some ideas with the whole class.
- Explain that students will have an opportunity to dig deeper and explore one of their curiosities. Students will need to form an inquiry-based question.
- Give students time to research their inquiry-based question. Along the way, have students reflect on their achievement on each session they have to work on their Genius Gallery project.
- Students should create a presentation to share their findings to their question at the Genius Gallery. Encourage students to present their information in a creative way to engage their audience.
- Prep for the Genius Gallery! Have students create posters and signs in the spirit of curiosity. Option: Invite other classes and adults to attend the gallery to join in on the learning fun!

Personal Reflection:

- What was it like to research, explore, and present on what you are curious about?
- Why can it be more interesting to explore your own questions rather than questions that teachers assign?
- How would you rate your engagement in this project?

Group Reflection:

Share the following quote from Angela Maiers: “You are a genius. The world expects your contribution.” Ask: What are you teaching the world? How did your projects help teach the world? What did you learn from your classmates? Watch the [Kid President’s Pep Talk to Teachers and Students!](#) video.

Extended Learning:

Have students create a curiosity journal or begin a notes section on a personal device. Students should write down questions and ideas that they are curious about. When they are bored, encourage students to begin to answer those questions.

Notes
