



Genius Hour/Passion Project

Curiosity & Creativity:

Asking “Why?” and “Why not?” about the world around you. Students will have the freedom to explore and research what they are passionate about.

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:

Devices or computers for students; materials will vary depending on student project.

Steps:

- Before introducing the assignment, decide on guidelines for the project in your classroom.
 - ♦ How much time will students have for their projects? Some Genius Hour teachers recommend one hour per week. Some teachers provide students with 20% time.
 - ♦ Design benchmarks and reflections for students. Search Genius Hour on the Web 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?
- Provide students an overview of Genius Hour by showing the following video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMFQUtHsWhc>.
- Invite students to focus on their own passions, interests, and talents. Allow students ample time to brainstorm ideas for their passion project. If a student is struggling to list interests, students could list five to ten things that they love to do, five to ten things they are curious about, and five to ten things that they are good at.
- Have students answer the following project proposal questions:
 - ♦ What is your proposed topic? List your driving question.
 - ♦ Why is this question important to you?
 - ♦ What do you hope to learn?
 - ♦ What kind of research do you think will help you?
 - ♦ What materials will you need?

- ♦ How will you plan to share your project?
- ♦ How can the teacher and other students support you in your project?
- 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 in a global way. Also encourage students to share their project in a creative way. Students must also explain the process of their passion 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 passion project?
- What was the most challenging part?

Group Reflection:

- “You are a genius. The world expects your contribution.” What are you teaching the world? How did your projects help teach the world?
- What did you learn from your classmates? View Kid President’s Pep Talk to Teachers and Students! video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwlhUcSGqgs>.

Extended Learning:

Students will share their projects, insights, challenges, successes, and recommendations on Twitter. Students can participate in a live Twitter chat and share their projects to other teachers by using the hashtag #geniushour.

Name: _____

Genius Hour Proposal Guide

1. What is your proposed topic? List 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 will you plan to share your project?
7. How can the teacher and other students support you in your project?