How to use...

Genius Hour

In your classroom

By Ask a Tech Teacher

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2014

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Genius Hour

Vocabulary	Problem Solving
• *20%* • *Benchmark* • *Collaboration* • *Extrinsic* • *Genius* • *Genius Hour* • *Globalization* • *Haiku Deck* • *Innovation* • *Inquiry* • *Intrinsic* • *Motivation* • *Passion* • *Pitch* • *Prezi* • *Temporal* • *Videographer* • *Voki*	• *I don't have a passion (You have interests…they lead to passion)* • *What are the best places to research online? (Start by asking a question, then use top resources with .org, .edu)* • *The teacher isn't around and I need help (ask for peer support)* • *I just want you to give me a handout (Sorry, we are learning through experience!)* • *Why are we doing this? (This is the type of learning you will do the rest of your life)* • *I can't find information on my passion (use search strategies, library, interviews, friends)* • *I can't finish in the time allotted (plan your work so you can)*
Time Required *300-400 minutes*	**NETS-S Standards** *1a-b, 2a-b, d, 3a-d, 4a-b, 5a, 6b*

Materials

- **Backchannel device**
- **Library, Media center, digital research device**
- **Grit rubric**
- *Six strategies to find your passion* **handout**
- **Genius Hour expectations handout**
- **Videos for motivation**

Essential Question

What would I choose if I could learn anything?

Overview

Summary

Students take 20% of class time over a period of weeks to pursue a passion. They have benchmarks to achieve and checkpoints to provide and ways to measure evidence of success.

Big Idea

Students dig deeply into a topic that interests them, and create a product or presentation that displays their passion.

Teacher Prep

- Be prepared with an intro video to get students thinking about their passions (like Daniel Pink's Science of Motivation — http://www.ted.com/talks/dan_pink_on_motivation.html). See list at http://geniushour.wikispaces.com/Student+Resources.
- Find specific time to incorporate Genius Hour into your curriculum. For example, connect it with Common Core's focus on reading non-fiction texts and research/analysis activities. Students can spend time reading, taking notes, sharing, and then creating.
- Have helpful links on class internet start page for students who may be stuck.

- Use http://geniushour.wikispaces.com/ site to gather resources for presentations and grading. Have these links ready for students and parents.
- If you want more depth in the education research behind Genius Hour and passion based learning, check out this article: http://ajjuliani.com/the-research-behind-20-time/
- This lesson plan can be done in the classroom or tech lab. Consider co-teaching.
- Something happen you weren't prepared for? No worries. Common Core is about critical thinking and problem solving. Show students how you fix the emergency without a meltdown and with a positive attitude.

Steps

_____**Required skill level: basic understanding of internet research, presentation tools, and optional video recording devices.**

_____Before beginning, put backchannel device onto Smartscreen (Today's Meet, Socrative, Padlet, class Twitter account, GAFE form) to track student comments throughout class. Show students how to access it on their devices. As you teach, pay attention to student comments.

_____Genius Hour Project gives students 20% of in-class (and homework) time to pursue a topic that interests them. It is as loose or structured as you want. In this lesson, we make it fairly detailed. Feel free to adapt guidelines to your unique student group.

_____Genius Hour is flexible from a teacher standpoint. Depending on your schedule, have students work on projects multiple times, or just once, per week.

_____Tie into various classes—Math, Science, LA, or Social Studies. Consider co-teaching with these professionals with goals adapted to their needs. It is also a good fit for classes such as "Technology", "Digital Media", and that type.

> ### Common Core
>
> CCSS.Math.Practice.MP1,3,5,6
> CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1-3
> CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1-9,10
> CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.2,4,6
> CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.7-8
> CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.1-6
> CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.4,6
> CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.6 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.6-8.1,3,7-9
> CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.7-10

_____Even if you're not grading based on rubric at end of Lesson, review guidelines as a method of explaining the intrinsic problem-solving and creative-thinking expected from this project.

_____Scaffold class time to specific benchmarks. Remind students of time constraints: Each benchmark uses only 20% of time (Benchmark 3 and 6—the two presentations—are not included in total). Students must budget labor, productivity, and time to fit temporal schedule:

- *Benchmark 1: Find your passion – 20% of one class*
- *Benchmark 2: Come up with a project – 20% of one class*
- *Benchmark 3: Project Pitch day to class –will likely take entire class*
- *Benchmark 4: Workday on Projects (video record your work) – 20% of ??? classes*
- *Benchmark 5: Share project with a peer. What is needed? – 20% of one class*
- *Benchmark 6: Class presentations—This will likely take entire class—or more*

- *Benchmark 7: Assessment, evidence of learning, summative—20% of one class*

_____Part of this project's challenge is working within time constraints. Yes, it would be nice to have endless time to follow a dream, but that rarely happens in life or education. In fact, some colleges build that into their success matrix, throwing more material at the student than s/he can reasonably handle to see how they thrive with stress.

_____Share strategies to assist students in organizing work, thinking, and prioritizing research so they finish in allotted time.

_____*Figure 64* can be completed on Google Docs and shared with stakeholders:

Genius Hour Project
Figure 1

Action Steps	How?	Timeline	Resources 1. *Available* 2. *Needed*	Barriers 1. *What?* 2. *Overcome?*	Communication Plan
Step 1:					
Step 2:					
Step 3:					
Step 4:					
Step 5:					
Step 6:					
Step 7:					
Step 8:					
Step 9:					
Step 10:					
Step 11:					
Step 12:					

Intentionally ended at this point in preview

Other Singles from Structured Learning

- Bridge Building
- Debate
- Gamification
- Google Apps
- Khan Academy
- Service Learning
- Write an Ebook

SL Technology Books for Your Classroom

Structured Learning Books/Ebooks

Which book	Price (print/digital/ Combo)	How Many
K-8th Tech Textbook (each)	$29.99-32.99/23.99-26.99/48.58-53.99+p&h	
K-6 Combo (all 7 textbooks)	$190.74/$153.84/$344.57 + p&h	
K-8 Combo (all 7 textbooks)	$246.52/$200.62/$447.14+ p&h	
35 More Projects for K-6	$31.99/25.99/52.18 + p&h	
55 Tech Projects—Vol I, II, Combo	$32.99 /$59.38—digital only (free shipping)	
K-8 Keyboard Curriculum	$29.95/25.95/50.31 + p&h	
K-8 Digital Citizenship Curriculum	$29.95/25.99/50.38 + p&h	
Common Core—Math, Lang., Read.	$26.99 ea/72.87 for 3—digi only (free ship'g)	
K-5 Common Core Projects	$29.95/23.99/48.55 + p&h	
16 Holiday Projects	$14.99 (digital only) + p&h	
19 Posters for the Tech Lab	$6.99 (digital only)	
18 More Posters for the Tech Lab	$12.99 (digital only)	
98 Tech Tips From Classroom	$9.99 (digital only) + p&h	
760+ Tech Ed Websites	$14.99 (digital only) + p&h	
Tech Ed Scope and Sequences	$14.99 (digital only) + p&h	
New Teacher Survival Kit (K-5)	$338.21/$287.85/$567.08+ p&h	
New Teacher Survival Kit (K-6)	$370.20/$314.84/$620.16 + p&h	
New Teacher Survival Kit (6-8)	$280.83/$261.83/$415.74 + p&h	
Bundles of lesson plans	$7.99 and up—digital only (free shipping)	
Mentoring (1 hr. at a time)	$50/hr	
Year-long tech curriculum help	$100 per year (online)	
Consulting/seminars/webinars	Call or email for prices	
	Total	

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