GENIUS HOUR
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The WHY?
Why?

- Student Choice
- Intrinsic Motivation
- Genuine Engagement
- Autonomy
- Empowering Lifelong Learners
- Inspiring Passion

“Let us remember: One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world.”

Malala Yousafzai
Creativity is intelligence having fun.

Albert Einstein
“If you are always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be.”

– Maya Angelou
The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing.

— Albert Einstein —
GENIUS HOUR

What is it?
# Genius Hour

## Student Centered
- Increase responsibility
- Time management
- Teacher as guide
- Empowering
- Work that matters

## Creative
- Project based
- Passion-based
- Active
- Pursue interests

## Collaborative
- Students can work in groups
- Share and help one another

## Long Term
- 10-12 weeks
- Trimester
- School Year

## Critical Thinking
- Create product
- Solve problem
- Inquiry based

## Practical
- One hour/week
- May Do
- Motivating
If we are to reach real peace in this world...
We shall have to begin with children.
-Mahatma Gandhi
Genius Hour

▷ How can we make our world a better place?
▷ What problems do you want to solve?
▷ What breaks your heart about our world?

▷ What are we going to do about it?
Genius Hour

Engage your students’ passions and creativity to empower them to change the world.
For so long I have been told what to know and taught how to know it, but never once did I really feel in control of my learning. It felt like the knowledge went into my brain, stayed there until after my exams, and then was thrown away like a smooth stone into a lake, out of my reach forever.

But when you are passionate about something and can learn it the way that YOUR brain understands it, it seems the knowledge takes root.

~Melina Louise
Introducing Genius Hour

First make some decisions:

▷ Group Size: Individual? Pairs?
▷ Essential / Driving Question
▷ Timeline
▷ Proposal
▷ Research Report or Project?
▷ Check in? Progress Monitoring?
▷ Final Product Presentation
▷ Teacher Guide
Introducing Genius Hour

▷ Talk about passions
▷ What are you excited about?
▷ What are you curious about?
▷ What can you create?
▷ “Introducing 20% Time” Video for students
▷ “What is Genius Hour?” Video for teachers
▷ Genius Hour Project Examples Video
▷ Ideas for Genius Hour Video
Genius Hour: Brainstorm

▷ Whole Class
▷ Circle Map
▷ Heartbreak maps
▷ Local problems
▷ Areas of interest

▷ What are we going to do about it?
Genius Hour: Brainstorm

- Fashion for older adults
- Homeless camps -> help
- Getting animals off the streets
- Animal abuse - ending it/preventing it
- Making lives of senior shelter animals happy
- Ending racism, improving tolerance
- Women's rights
- School funding
- Affordable medical coverage
- Collecting food for homeless
- Poaching ending
- Making shelters "no kill"
- Visiting family that lives out of state/country
- Bullying (accept all orientations)

Writing from the Heart

What’s special in your life? Fill this heart with people, pieces and memories that are most important to you. Be creative with shapes and sizes and color code using the key below.

- Blue = Things I do in my free time
- Yellow = Places I’ve lived in/visited
- Green = People I care about
- Red = Favorite memories

Passion Project
Genius Hour: Brainstorm

Ted Talks
Four inspiring kids imagine the future of learning: [LINK]

Richard Turere: A Peace Treaty With the Lions

Matt Cutts: Try Something New for 30 Days

Kid President
How to Change the World

What Makes An Awesome Leader?

Kid President Has a Dream!

How Good Spreads

For the Heroes: A Pep Talk

Inspiration
Landfill Harmonic

Apple: The Crazy Ones

Heartbreak Maps

Heartbreak Maps Examples
Genius Hour: Brainstorm

Heartbreak Maps: from Notes from McTeach
Genius Hour: Brainstorm

A.J. Juliani and Chris Kesler’s Passion Madness Bracket Challenge
Genius Hour: Brainstorm

“Googleable”

A “Googleable” question is a question which can be answered by a simple Google or library search.

“Non-Googleable”

A “Non-Googleable” question is a question which cannot be easily answered by a Google or Library search, but they may help you find the answer.

Developed by @ anthoperanza – http:// anthoperanza. global2. vic. edu. au
Genius Hour: Brainstorm

**Essential / Driving Question**
What problem will your research solve?
How will your project help?
Who will your project help?
What difference will this project make?
Why is this research important to you?
Why do you want to do this project?
How will you know you succeeded?
Genius Hour: Brainstorm

Essential / Driving Question

Resources:
- The Art of Asking Essential Questions
- Crafting Questions that Drive Projects
- Essential Question Maker
Genius Hour Products

Physical

Digital

Event/Activity/Organization
GENIUS HOUR

The Proposal
Genius Hour Proposal

Make your PITCH

● Who is the pitch audience?
● How will students share their pitch?
  ○ On paper?
  ○ Google Form?
  ○ Presentation slide?
● What are the required questions?
● Think “Shark Tank” or other Reality Show!

Teacher Considerations
Genius Hour Proposal

Independent Study Contract

San dram like, would like to conduct a study on topic Home less people.

I plan to explore the following research questions:

1. How I can help Home less people?
2. What can we give Home less people?

My learning goal for this study is:
I want to learn how to help people.

Student Signature: San dram like
Date: 1-25-17

Independent Study Contract

Lucero would like to conduct a study on topic cards for sick kids.

I plan to explore the following research questions:

1. How can I help sick kids?
2. Where can I receive the cards for sick kids?

My learning goal for this study is:
I want to learn more about sick kids.

Student Signature: Lucero
Date: 1-25-17

Teacher Signature:
Genius Hour Options

PITCH QUESTIONS

- What is your project?
- Who will work with you?
- Who is the audience or user base?
- Why is this worthwhile?
- What is your essential or driving question?
- What will you learn from this work?
- What will your final product be?
- What materials will you need?
- What is your timeframe?
- How will you know you have succeeded?
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Options
Genius Hour Options

- **Student Planning Sheet**
- **Blog**
  - Weekly tracking of progress
  - Ongoing Learning
  - Students provide feedback to each other
  - Challenges faced
- **Genius Hour Google Classroom**
  - Check in weekly
  - Ask questions/answers
- **Reflection**
  - Ongoing
  - Learn from struggle
Genius Hour Options

- Mentors
  - Check in weekly
  - Ask questions/answers
  - Guide and inspire
  - Advice, leadership

- Research
  - Appropriate amount of time to spend on research
  - Multiple sources

- Failure
  - Failure is a chance to learn!
  - Celebrate failures!
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Final Project Presentations
Genius Hour Presentations

- Share with class, administrators, community
- TED Talks, Videos, Performances, etc.
- Museum or Open House style?
- Practiced and polished
- Celebration of hard work
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Assessing Student Work
Genius Hour Assessment

- Rubric developed together with class
- Focus less on a grade and more on effort/learning
- Intrinsic vs. extrinsic motivation
- 4 Cs (Communication, Creativity, Critical Thinking, Collaboration) a focus
Genius Hour Assessment

Questions to consider

▷ Proposal
  ○ Was it on time?
  ○ Did it address the required questions?
  ○ Was it professional and thoughtful?

▷ Blog/Google Classroom
  ○ Were posts made weekly?
  ○ Did posts address required topic?
Genius Hour Assessment

Questions to consider

▷ **Product**
  ○ Did project move from idea to production?
  ○ Was a final product created?
  ○ Is the product well developed?

▷ **Productivity**
  ○ Was time well spent?
  ○ Was effort made to develop understanding and create product?
Genius Hour Assessment

Questions to consider

▷ Final Presentation
  ○ Rubric for required elements
  ○ Is rehearsal evident?

▷ Self Assessment
  ○ Effort
  ○ Time management
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Final Thoughts and Resources
Student Centered
“Sage on the stage”   “Guide on the Side”

Passion Project
Student driven and directed

Share Success
Success inspires!
Genius Hour Overview

1. Brainstorm
2. Pitch Proposal
3. Research
4. Monitor Progress (blog, classroom)
5. Create final product
6. Final Presentation

Reflect
Resources

- Genius Hour Live Binder
- Genius Hour Website: Resources, webinar, and Master Course offered
- Daniel Pink: Book: *The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us*
- Standards-Based Genius Hour website
- Suggestions for Students: Generating ideas
- Project Ideas Video
Genius Hour **LiveBinder**

Topics listed in color on top

Resources for each topic in gray
Thanks!

Any questions?

You can find me at:
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Patricia Chiles
Anaheim Elementary School District
Credits

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:
▷ Presentation template by SlidesCarnival
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Isn’t that nice? :)

Examples: