

Genius Hour

The Steps

Step One: What is it?

Genius Hour is a movement which allows students to spend one hour a week exploring their passion. Each term they create an inquiry question based on a topic they are passionate about. They then need to research the topic before creating a product based on their research. The project is student led with the teacher taking a supervisory and supportive role.

In the first step explain what the project is to your students. To help them understand I would recommend watching these videos:

1. [Pep Takk by Kid President](#)
2. [Genius Hour by Big Brain Academy](#)
3. [What is Genius Hour? Introduction to Genius Hour in the Classroom By Chris Kesler](#)

Step Two: Topic Ideas

As a class brainstorm things the students are passionate about. Students then create their own brainstorm of topics they might like to do.

Step Three: Submission

Students write a submission which tells you what their Genius Hour Project inquiry question will be. Depending on your students experience writing these types of questions they may need some explicit teaching on how to do it.

Step Four: Research

Students research their question and take notes. It may be a good idea to ask them to keep track of the sources they find useful through a bibliography. I would also encourage them to use a range of sources such as the internet, books, magazines, newspaper articles and people qualified to give information.

Step Five: Product

Students create some kind of product which shows what they know. The product should be designed to inform people and the aim is to share it with as many people as is possible. I showed my student [this graphic](#) to help them choose.

Step Six: Present

Students present their product to their peers. I do not formally mark my students projects, instead I give them written feedback. How you do it is really up to you and what you think is best for your class.

Step Seven: Reflect

Students reflect on their Genius Hour projects.

Timing depends on your class. I allow 8-9 weeks for the whole process.