Genius Hour with Discus

I have implemented a Genius hour program for our 6th and 7th graders. Genius hour is a movement that allows students to explore their own passions and encourages creativity in the classroom. It provides students a choice in what they learn during a set period of time during school.

Students are given an orientation to Genius Hour beginning with a [video presentation](https://youtu.be/COF-bqZuE-I).

 During the orientation, I present the following resources for them to use for their Genius Hour projects:

* [Video presentation explaining Genius Hour](https://youtu.be/COF-bqZuE-I)
* Project proposal
* Project Planning
* Research steps - BIG 6
* Discus- I introduce them to the [SCDiscus.org](https://www.scdiscus.org/) website, the different databases, and tools they can use such as: citation, saving to Google drive, and audio of the articles.  I also give them the Discus bookmarks so they will have the logins for when they are at home.
* Presentation Menu
* Different tech resources they can use for their projects

I have a [Symbaloo](https://www.symbaloo.com/mix/geniushour92) that I use for the presentation and I post the Symbaloo in Google Classroom for the students to use during the project.  At the bottom of the Symbaloo, I have included resources for the teachers who want to learn more about Genius Hour.  I also put together a packet for each teacher which includes: handouts and rubrics (including a handout for the Discus Scavenger Hunt for Middle School), a Discus bookmark, a Big 6 info card, a Discus pen, and the Google Classroom code.

**Genius Hour Presentation Menu**

**\*Choose one of these ways to show what you learned! Bring it to class to show us by the end of the month!**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Write a Research Paper** This should be a 5 paragraph essay about what you learned. Don’t forget your introduction and conclusion! | **Make a Google Slides Presentation** You can use your school email account. Share it with your teacher! | **Make a Poster** Make sure you include pictures and lots of information on your topic! |
| **Make a Model**Show what you learned by making a model of your topic. Make sure you include labels! | **Make a Video**Show what you know by making a video. It must give viewers plenty of information! | **Create a Board Game**Make a board game that helps others to learn about your topic! |
| **Make a Mobile**Include pictures and information as well as a great decoration to hang from your ceiling!  | **Be the Teacher**Make a test about your topic that would show you that others understand your information! | **Create a Museum Exhibit** Make sure it is small enough to come to school with you! |



Genius Hour Project Proposal

1. What is your proposal topic?
2. What are the top 3 inquiry-based questions you brainstormed about you topic?
3. Why are these questions important to you?
4. What do you hope to learn?
5. How do you plan to share your project with others?
6. What materials will you need?
7. List some ways that I can support you and your project.