



Mentor- in-the-Room

The Why:

During Genius Project days, teachers often spend most of the class period working with just 2–4 students. That leaves 30+ other students without the one-on-one support they need to move their projects forward. These conversations are crucial for helping students take the next step, but it's simply impossible for each teacher to connect with every student in a single class period. **Mentors-in-the-Room** help fill this gap by providing guidance, encouragement, and a listening ear to more students, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to make meaningful progress.

The What:

Mentors provide a supportive sounding board for seniors and juniors as they work on their Genius Projects. Your role is to listen, offer guidance, and encourage students to persevere when they encounter challenges.

The When:

Mentors join us during in-class Genius Project days to support students as they work on their projects. You can give your time for as long as your schedule allows—any presence in the classroom makes a difference!

The How:

Listen to students' project ideas and help them reflect on the three essential components of every Genius Project: **Passion**, **Challenge**, and **Impact**. Some students may have strong ideas for two components but need help refining the third—your guidance can make a big difference.

As you listen, consider prompting students to think about:

- ★ **Practicality & Planning:** *Are there action steps or logistics they haven't considered? What are the most important next steps they should take to move their project forward?*
- ★ **Defining their End “Product”:** While not every project will have a tangible outcome by the end of senior year (e.g., a benefit concert or motivational speech), students should have findings or results they can share at our TED-style conference.

Additional questions and prompts are available in the [Support Conversations](#) document to help guide your discussions.

Questions? Email Shannon Alberts: salberts@carlsbadusd.net