

GENIUS HOUR TRAINING DAY

This training day would be set up for a small group of staff to attend with students in session. One representative from each team would be in attendance so they can then bring this information back to their teams. The training was designed around the theory of andragogy and keeping adult learning in mind. As you will read through each section, each activity rationale addresses different traits of adult learning and why I feel they would be effective. Technology is embedded throughout focusing on the SAMR model. Substitution (Nearpod Presentation), Augmentation (Video/links based on inquiry based learning within the presentation), Modification (staff creating their own products based upon the steps of Genius Hour), and Redefinition (connecting with an administrator from another school district through zoom call).

What	Description	Time	Rationale
Introductory Gimkit Activity	Staff will be playing a Gimkit to get them excited for Genius Hour. Questions will check for any previous knowledge that staff has about project based/inquiry based learning. The Gimkit will include many important key vocabulary terms associated with Genius Hour. The winner gets a small prize!	8:00-8:20	I wanted to start the meeting off with a fun activity to build some excitement for Genius Hour. More importantly it will provide me with feedback on how much previous knowledge the teachers involved have on inquiry based learning. It is important during professional development that adults have the opportunity to self assess where their knowledge is at as well.
Genius Hour Nearpod Presentation	Staff will follow along with a Nearpod presentation that I will lead covering the foundations of "Genius Hour". The presentation will start with covering the "why" of inquiry based learning. Teachers may have heard about inquiry based learning before and maybe had concerns with it being so abstract. This presentation will clearly define what inquiry based learning looks like, the steps to implement it, and what some	8:50-9:50	Nearpod presentations are much more interactive than basic google slide presentations. This goes along with the theory of andragogy keeping the material interactive which helps keep adult learners engaged. I will be using the variety of tools within Nearpod to promote interaction between the

	final products may look like. By the end of the presentation the staff will have a much clearer understanding of why we are implementing Genius Hour and the steps we need to take to do so with our students.		staff members involved. Open ended question slides will allow me to check for understanding and get feedback as we progress through the lesson. Collaborate slides will help promote healthy discussion among the group as we cover the different steps involved in creating Genius Hour. Lastly, Flipgrid slides will allow the teachers to provide their opinions and feedback while interacting with one another.
Break		9:50-10:00	
Paper, Scissors, Rock Challenge		10:05-10:10	Got to have some fun! The PE teacher in me has plenty of fun small games to create a fun learning environment!
Commonly Asked Questions	Staff will have access to a Google Doc where they can list any questions they may have about "Genius Hour." I will cover a list of commonly asked questions that have come up in the past from districts implementing inquiry based learning for the first time. I will then provide some time for teachers to upload any questions they have so we can discuss them together.	10:10-11:00	After working in education now for 13 years I have seen many different trends come and go. I know that teachers may not always be thrilled to see another thing added to their plate. I'm hoping to ease this anxiety of introducing something new by being very transparent and allowing the staff to ask questions as we progress through our institute day. The best learning occurs when discussion happens and everyone feels invested into what the end goal will be. By taking these steps I am hoping the staff is able to keep an open mind and a willingness to try

			something new.
Small Group Selection and Reading time	Staff will be divided into small groups of 2-3 using playing cards that will be given out. Each group will be assigned to a specific step in the Genius Hour project that was introduced in the Nearpod presentation earlier. Each group will be provided a link to an article that specifically covers each step. Every member of the group will use this time to read the article provided. ONce finished the group members will discuss key points from the articles.	11:00-11:30	These articles will provide practical steps for the teachers to use while building Genius Hour. I also like the fact that each group will be focusing on a specific step so it is not so overwhelming at first. I will keep the groups smaller (2-3) so everyone feels like contributions can be made. Sometimes in large groups it becomes way too easy to get lost and people then may not share their ideas.
Lunch		11:30-12:30	
Small Group Creative Time	After the article is read and key points are discussed, groups will decide how they want to share their information with the whole group. Some ideas include edtech options: a google slide presentation, google drawings, Prezi, creating a screencastify, etc. The product created must provide the key takeaways from the step focused on, examples of what that step might look like in their classrooms, and ideas to help students that are struggling with this step.	12:30-1:15	I wanted to provide some choice for my groups to decide what their projects would look like. I feel that the final products will be much more creative if I give the groups different options and hopefully it will provide a nice variety of presentations instead of the same format over and over. By doing this the staff get a break from listening to me lead and get to hear from one another during the institute. The best way to demonstrate learning is to teach someone else about the content and that is exactly what they are doing here.
Share out	Each group will share their product they created based upon the specific steps in the Genius Hour.	1:15-1:45	This time will be used for the staff to share out to one another about what they learned. If I feel that there is anything I can add

			to help bring clarity to each step I will but I want to empower the staff to teach one another about the steps of Genius Hour. This way they all feel invested into this project as much as I do.
Break		1:45-1:55	
Connecting with educators	The last part of the training today will be a zoom call with a local district leader. I want the staff to hear from another district administrator talk about the benefits of inquiry based learning that they have seen since implementing this procedure. Hearing someone that leads a building that is implementing inquiry based learning successfully will be valuable. Staff will have the ability to ask questions at the end. From this discussion we will help create together what our next steps in the process will look like and what key information will be brought back to share with their team members.	2:00-2:20	I wanted to wrap up the day with a chance to talk with another building administrator who has successfully implemented inquiry based learning in their school. This would take a few phone calls/emails on my end to set up but it would be so valuable to the staff and myself. Being able to pick another person's brain who has already been down this path before will allow our building to learn from their past mistakes. Knowing what has worked well and what hasn't can really aid in successfully starting Genius Hour at WBO. I will keep a google doc going throughout the discussion for us to establish what our next steps in implementation will look like.