

Genetic Mutation Videos (Dooley)

Dates

- November 13th, 2014 - December 7th, 2017, every other day.
- Overall it was 10 class periods to research a genetic mutation, write a script, and make a video

Facilitators

- Peadar Dooley

What happened

- Based on the constraints of Biogen Foundation [Spark video contest](#), 7th graders made several minute long videos about particular genetic mutations.
- First couple classes were spent picking a topic, doing research, and answering questions about basic information about the genetic mutation — where the gene's location, what the inheritance pattern is, what the symptoms and treatment are, etc. Then some people wrote scripts and storyboards and then they shot their videos.
- People were given the options of doing dramatizations and stop-motion animations. Only 4-6 that were acting/script based and more than half did videos that weren't dramatizations. A lot of them did ended up using whiteboards or other types of drawings (e.g. narrating over pictures they drew).
- In addition to the video, young people did a separate essay about the genetic disorder they were making the video about. Because the videos had to be short and to allow more flexibility, Peadar didn't want to ask folks to include everything they learned in the video.
- 1 group from each class (3) did not complete the project. The rest did complete their projects. Overall 80% of groups completed their projects).
- Young people felt that they couldn't do dramatizations because didn't have props.

What worked

- WeVideo customer support was responsive and helpful
- People used ipods and preferred using the to their own phones

What didn't work

- In WeVideo, sharing projects was difficult because if people started on their own and then others joined their project if they had started editing the video as an individual instead of in a group then it was difficult to share and for everyone to access the media.
- In WeVideo, One video got lost. Peadar emailed WeVideo and they ended up finding it and restoring it. Customer support was good but by the time they restored it, the person had already remade their video.
- A lot of people had accounts from previous years so their somerville emails were already taken.
- Young people didn't like using WeVideo as much as they liked using iMovie
- Because of time crunch, there wasn't time for previewing and giving feedback.
- The quality of the projected ranged quite a bit.

Materials

- USB cables of different kinds
- Ipods
- Tripods
- WeVideo subscription

Cost

- ~\$400 (for USB cables and WeVideo subscription)