

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## Genius Hour

### Intro

Genius Hour, or 20% time, is a practice used at many companies, one of which is Google. This means that Google employees are encouraged and allowed to use 20% of their time to work on solving any problem or inventing any product that interests them. Whether this is one day out of a 5-day week or a ~2 hours a day is up to them. Gmail is one product that we now enjoy because of how one employee used his/her 20% time. **Fun Fact:** The word “genius” *means creating and producing*.

For 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, Fridays will be our Genius Hour. We will start with researching a famous or groundbreaking scientist and writing a 5-paragraph (minimum, feel free to write more) paper about this person. There will be a variety of scientists from which to choose, but no two people may write about the same scientist in the same class.

### Proposal – Guided Thinking and Preparation

We will do a similar version of this next time, so think of this as a dry run.

--What is your topic of interest? (What do you love to do or learn about? Do you have a problem to solve? An invention? A curiosity about some scientific process or phenomenon?)

--Write 3 questions you have about this topic.

- a.
- b.
- c.

--Find a scientist who studied this topic or something similar to it.

--What do you hope to learn from writing this paper?

--What do you need from me to help you do this? (reminders? Tips on APA?)

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**Checklist to work through IN ORDER:**

- Brainstorm, do a little digging, and choose a scientist.
- Get this approved/sign up with Mrs. Stotz-Mason.
- Research your scientist. Include his/her background, education, groundbreaking experiments/ discoveries/inventions, and how his/her discoveries have impacted humans today **or** will in the future. *Each* of these should be a paragraph.
- Include an introduction and conclusion.
- Compile at least 20 facts. *Suggestion: include a photo or two of your scientist and/or the discoveries or models they used and studied.*
- Arrange these facts in a logical order. Most likely, this will be chronological. (in order of time)
- **Write your paper. Yes, you are writing a paper. It will be typed and printed and handed in.**
- Have a classmate peer edit your **paper**.
- Also peer edit someone else's **paper**.
- Cite your resources IN TEXT using APA STYLE.
- 12 pt font, Times New Roman, 1-inch margins. Anything else and I will set your paper on fire.
- **Due Wednesday, Feb 19<sup>th</sup>**. This is an early release day.
- Relax and reflect!
- Fun fact: you will have 4 Fridays total *in class* to accomplish these tasks. You may work on it outside of class, but you must use class time wisely.

**Rubric**

<b>21<sup>st</sup> Century Qualities and SKILLS</b>	<b>Yes, I have it!</b>	<b>Where are you NOW?</b>				<b>Not yet.</b>
Ambiguity	I don't need to ask the teacher a lot of questions. I can think for myself and get the job done.	4	3	2	1	I have to be told exactly how to do each step and job. There is only one right way to do each job.
Inquisitiveness	I am curious and I look up things that interest me. I'm a lifelong learner.	4	3	2	1	I don't ask questions for the joy of learning. I don't want to learn new things.
Generating Ideas	I am able to fluently create a list of ideas. I use my imagination.	4	3	2	1	I cannot see beyond the obvious ideas. I am easily frustrated and maybe a little lazy.
Originality of Ideas	I can think outside the box; I think of things others don't.	4	3	2	1	I can only think of ideas that others thought of first. I don't like new ways of doing things. The old way is just fine.
Flexibility/Adaptability	I can think of new ways to do things when I get stuck. I recognize the value of other people's great ideas.	4	3	2	1	I am not willing to change or improve my ideas or consider new ones.
Self-Reflection	I can honestly go through my work and know its strengths and weaknesses.	4	3	2	1	I lie about my work. I can't and won't look honestly at the things I do well and those I need to improve.
Intrinsic Motivation	I want to try new things and do my best. I believe in my own abilities.	4	3	2	1	Not willing to try new things unless I get a reward for it.

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**Reflection**

<b>Week</b>	<b>What will you accomplish?</b>	<b>Reflection (What went well? What didn't?)</b>
1		
2		
3		
4		

**End of Project Reflection**

1. What did you learn while doing this project? A new skill? Facts that blew your mind?

2. What struggles did you overcome?

3. How will you approach the next genius hour differently?