Genius Hour Semester 2 Reflection and Evaluation

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Trees

**Summarize the purpose of your Genius Hour project in 140 characters.**

The purpose of my Genius Hour project is of several different factors from the course of the year. One purpose was for me to learn how to identify the different types of deciduous and conifers trees that are present up here in Michigan. Another purpose of my Genius Hour project was to help inform the school and general community about the different trees present out in their backyards. The last purpose was to help the environment by holding a tree sale and get many people to plant them.

**Explain the process of your Genius Hour project. Be reflective. Be contemplative. Explain and describe your journey.**

The process to complete my Genius Hour project has taken many months of careful work, patience, determination, and persistence. At the start of the year, my only goal of the Genius Hour project was for me to be able to identify the different trees that grew locally here. I had not really planned to share my knowledge except to those who asked to know. To learn about such trees, though, I had researched on several websites how to identify the trees by how big the trunk was and the color and shape of the leaves. How fast that particular tree will grow to be and the height was also a way I found to identify trees.

Later on, to share my knowledge with more than people who talk to me, I documented my finding while working during the allotted class period. Unfortunately, many people do not have a Google account which was the document format I had linked on my website. To compensate for this inconvenience, I would copy all the content and pictures on the document and paste them on a word document. From there I would link that word document that can be formatted to whatever is needed, to my website. I did this for all of my documents on the deciduous and coniferous trees that can be seen on my website as well as the website link where I got my information from.

That is what I did for my first semester on my Genius Hour project. For the second semester of my Genius Hour project, I had done something relative but completely different from before. My goal for the second semester was to organize and complete a local tree sale to benefit the environment. To do this, I had talked with the local Conservation District to just help out with their annual tree sale instead of having my own. My sister works for the Conservation District so she is the one who helped me volunteer there. This experience helped me learn more about the various trees they have for sale, and how to properly take care of them when you first buy the tree or plant.

**The intention For Genius Hour is NOT only to learn, but ALSO to share your knowledge with others who can and will benefit from your learning. How did you share your learning? What do you hope the result might be?**

There were many ways that I did to help share my knowledge from this past year to others. One was I had created on my webpage several documents on how to Identify various coniferous and deciduous trees that can be grown locally in the Upper Peninsula. Another way I had shared my information was at the tree sale, I had talked to some people who were picking up their order by telling how big the tree would get and how fast it would take to reach its full height. So others know of the next tree sale, I had created a flyer that shares the information need.

The results I wished to accomplish from sharing the information I obtained are not that numerous. What I really wished to accomplish was that the general public could identify the types of trees there were in their own backyards. This would help them if they wanted to cut down any of the trees or have them professionally removed. I also hope that more people will want to purchase trees to plant in their yards for whatever reasons they may have.

**If you could do anything different with your Genius Hour project what would you do differently and why?**

There are several aspects of my Genius Hour project that I wish I could have done differently than what I had done. One such being that as it was mostly winter during this project, I could not collect sample leaves of the trees I had research. I had wished to perhaps make a book with leaf samples of the trees researched. I would want to do this because pictures only help so much when it comes to the color and shape. The only problem with them is the size is not accurate and having a leaf would make it easier for the person to see the actual size of a leaf.

Another aspect of my Genius Hour project I would have done differently is talk more on the environment benefits of planting trees. I would have done more on the importance of planting trees to replace the ones cut down for various reasons and for the benefit of the air getting cleaned by trees. I would want to do this because planting trees is important if we want clean air for my generation and future generations to come. Trees would be a great way to help this.

**Reflect on what you did well during this Genius Hour process? Note your successes and accomplishments.**

I have had not a lot of accomplishments with my Genius Hour project, but I have had many successes with the project. One success with my project was that I had learned how to identify various trees located in the Upper Peninsula as well as the surrounding states and country. I also call being able to document and share my research on how to identify trees as a success. Not only that but the results of the research that are shared as an accomplishment from this project.

Another accomplishment I had done was with the tree sale. Granted, I did not put it on, but I had volunteered to work it for several Saturdays doing hard work. I would also call it a success because the whole sale in general was a success. Over 60,000 trees and plants were sold to people just in the Upper Peninsula and Wisconsin areas. This is huge and a great way for more people to learn about trees and how they help the environment.