# LESSON OVERVIEW

The concept of Genius Hour started at Google, where engineers are encouraged to spend 20% of their time working on any passion-driven project that they want.   Google credits this unleashing of creativity for 50% of their product lines such as Gmail and Google News.

Author Daniel Pink, best-selling author books including *A Whole New Mind* and *Drive* has also detailed how   Google-time projects have been successfully implemented in companies.

# LESSON OBJECTIVES

## Students will:

Exercise voice and choice in their learning by embarking on a self-selected passion project in which they will demonstrate mastery of content with a visible product.

# BLENDED LEARNING STRATEGIES USED:

**Flipped Classroom –** There are several versions of Flipped Classroom instruction, however as this course is designed there is an assumption that students are physically in class and they rotate between individual mostly online learning, project group assignments and whole class instruction. This version also allows for the educator to provide one-to-one or small group coaching as needed

**Station Rotation –** Students rotate between stations in the classroom which include small/whole class instruction, individual learning and group projects.

#  Teacher Prep:

# If you are unfamiliar with this methodology, the following websites are excellent resources:

# [Genius Hour](https://betterlesson.com/strategy/88/genius-hour) by Better Lesson

# [A Template to Help Students Tap Into Their Genius Potential](https://www.techlearning.com/news/a-template-to-help-students-tap-into-their-genius-potential) by Tech & Learning

# [Genius Hour Blueprint: Step-by-Step Guide to Running the Project in your Class](http://ajjuliani.com/genius-hour-blueprint-step-step-guide-running-project-class/) by A.J. Juliani

# Whole Group/Class

**Icebreaker Discussion & Activity:**

Ask students if they ever heard about the Genius Hour at Google. Provide an overview of the concept and ask them how they would like to work at a place that allows their employees to spend 20% of their time working on their own passion projects.

**Play the following video:**



Provide students with the parameters you will be setting for your course Genius Hour projects. You may want to use or modify the [The Genius Hour Blueprint](https://www.dropbox.com/s/l40qpgwvgwibxa4/Genius%20Hour%20Blueprint.pptx?dl=0) by A.J. Juliani to detail what is required for each of these steps;

**Steps:**

1. Choose a Topic
2. Pitch your Idea
3. Research/Learn
4. Share it all
5. Make and Design
6. Present and Reflect

# Student Assignment

Students are to develop the idea for their passion project.