Kaitlyn Willoughby

Period 1

Reflective Essay

The part that I found most exciting in my experience with the Genius Hour was doing the research and learning about how technology has influenced us. I chose this topic because I thought about my everyday life and I wondered what I did the most. The answer was that I was on the Internet and social media most of the time. That got me wondering how technology has influenced and affected us. This experience taught me how to break up an essential question to help with researching. This experience taught me more about technology and the influences it has on you.

My experience was overall good for the Genius Hour. I had some tough times during the research for the project, but after it was over it got easier. In the beginning it was a little confusing because I don’t think the directions were laid out clearly and I had a tough time understanding what exactly we had to do for this project. Another thing I found confusing was the fact that the things that we had to complete kept changing. I was also a bit confused to the reason we were doing this and what we would learn from doing this. I found the breaking the essential question into topic questions and breaking that down even more frustrating. In the end it was worth it because it helped me with what I needed to research to answer my essential question. A part I found exciting during this Genius Hour was the fact that we could choose what we wanted this project to be on. We could also choose what we wanted our final product to be instead of having a set final product laid out for us. Overall, I like the freedom that came with this project. The library helped me clear my mind when things got tough. I went there a couple times when I didn’t understand what was to be done and it helped to clear my mind and work on it a bit more. If I had to do this over again I don’t know if I would. I would probably pick a better topic with something I am a little more interested in. I think that the essential question shouldn’t be there and that we should just have a topic and research and teach about that topic. I feel that the essential question was a bit restrictive with the fact that it couldn’t be a question in which you could just look up the answer to online. During this experience, I learned a lot more on how we’ve changed because of technology. Before this, I had a little background knowledge about how it affected us physically and mentally, but after this project I learned more about it than I thought I would’ve.

All in all, I enjoyed this experience even though there were a few bumps on the road to achieving this. I don’t think I totally completed my goal, but I don’t think I would’ve because the topic I picked has a ton of information to it. It would probably take years to get through all of it. I liked that it let me experience the freedom of choosing any topic to work on for the Genius Hour. I learned how to break up the essential question to find the important parts to research. I liked learning about how technology affected us. If we could do this project again I would most likely do it. I loved the learning process of this even though there were a few bumps along the way.