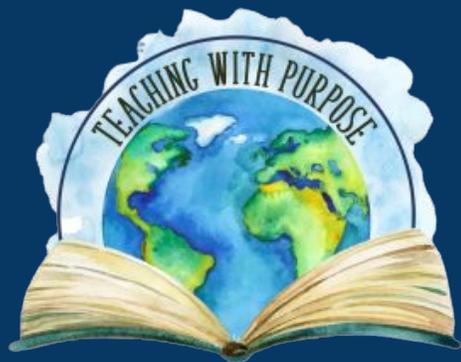


Passion Project

Making a
Difference in Our
World!



A Note to Educators



Thank you so much for downloading this free resource. This project is very near and dear to my heart. It is my passion to help students recognize that reading is a gateway to the world around them, and we should use our knowledge to bring about positive change.

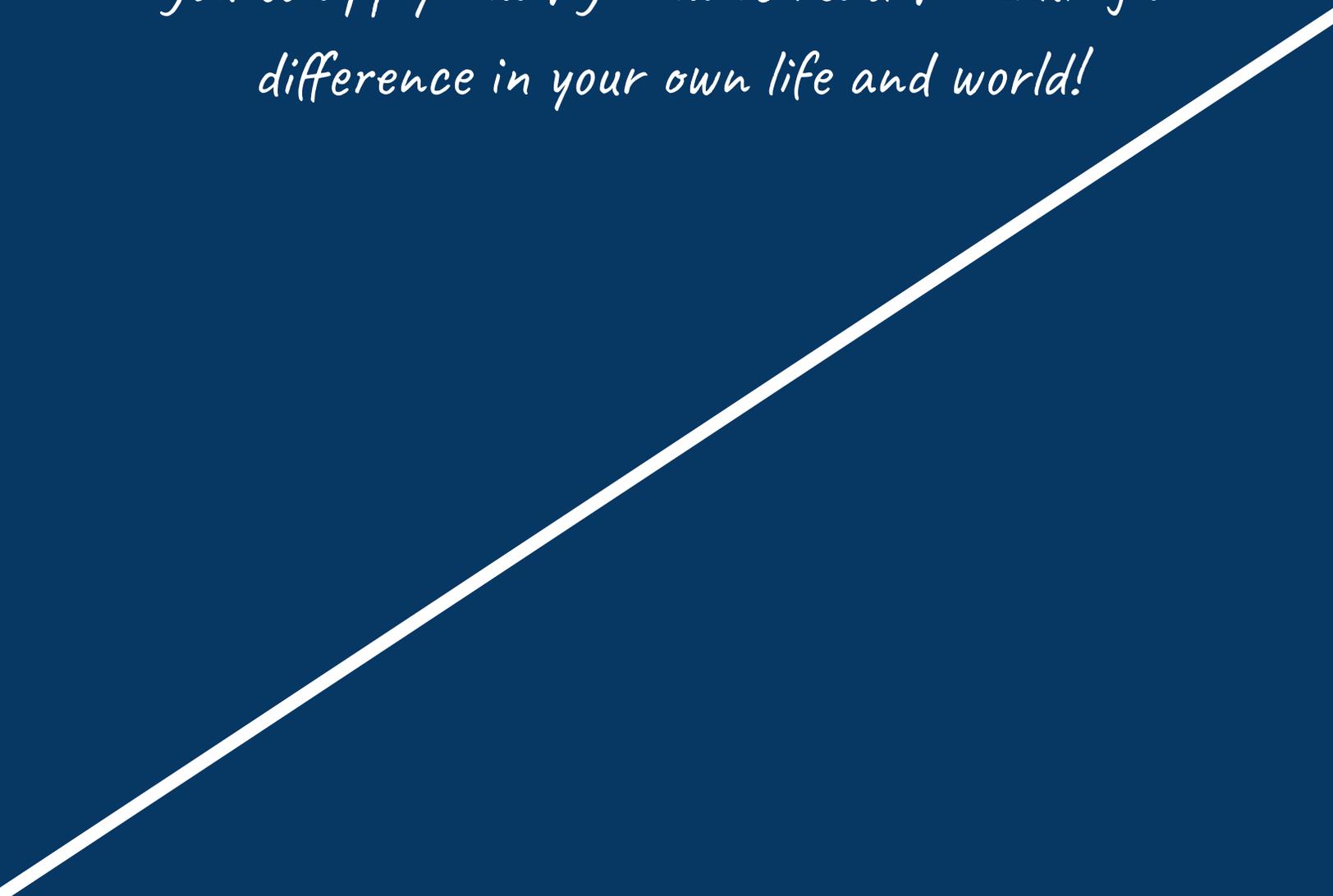
This project is designed to take students' powerful connection with what they have read and to walk them through making a plan to tackle a problem and find a solution.

I generally use this resource as the culminating project for the year after reading a plethora of powerful pieces of literature, narrative nonfiction and expository nonfiction. The units leading to this project are rich with texts that expose students to the world around them and help them make meaningful connections to their own lives. Most of all, they inspire students to tackle problems in their world and make moves for lasting change. Students see that no person is too small to make a difference.

If you'd like the lesson plans and units leading up to this culminating project or the Problem/Solution writing piece that accompanies it, we'd love to have you as a part of our community! Our official launch date is July 1, so sign up for our emails so you can be a part of our Beta group (and lock in Beta group pricing)!!

What is a Passion Project?

A Passion Project is a project that is going to allow you to apply what you have read to making a difference in your own life and world!



Project Overview

To Begin:

You will read a novel that has a theme that focuses on social justice issues.

Next:

You will decide on and research a problem in your school, community, state, country, or world. Your research will help you to brainstorm ideas to make a difference with the problem.

Then:

You will plan a solution to the problem you have researched.

Finally:

Put your plan into motion! You can either take the first step in getting your plan going OR you can take action on your project and share what you have done!

Step 1-Read the Book

1. As you read, feel free to use post-it notes to write notes in your book and indicate passages that mean something to you or make you think.
2. Jot down ideas of problems or solutions you think of as you read.
3. Don't forget to read the Forward and Introduction and any additional information your book provides.

Step 2-Research a Problem

1. It's time to research several problems and decide on a problem for which you'd like to plan a solution.

2. Explore the following websites to get you started:

<https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/global-issues-overview/>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/>

3. You could also search terms like, "problems in the United States", "problems in [your state]" or "problems middle schoolers face" and find articles that interest you.

-These are all suggestions and simply starting points for your research. You are not limited to these listed here.

4. Fill out Part 1 of the Planning Guide. (Separate Handout)

Stuck for an idea?

Let me help get you started...

Problem Ideas

1. *Hunger*
2. *Lack of Education*
3. *Water Scarcity*
4. *Bullying*
5. *Litter in your neighborhood*

Solution Ideas

1. *Organize a Food Drive for local pantry*
Collect produce from local grocery to deliver to homeless food kitchen
2. *Organize a used book or supply drive for struggling schools*
3. *Create a presentation to educate your community on water scarcity and collect funds to donate to a charity that supports communities struggling with water.*
4. *Create a buddy-system for your school to include everyone and present the idea to your principal.*
5. *Organize a neighborhood clean-up*

Check out some of these charities that are really making a difference!



roots&shoots

UNITED STATES

<https://www.rootsandshoots.org/for-youth/>

<https://charityball.org/>



<https://umhlabavisionfoundation.com/>



<https://thewaterproject.org/community/profile/kromrey-middle-schools-water-project>

<https://penniesforpeace.org/>



Check out what problem these people/charities are addressing and how they are doing their part to make a difference in their world!



Step 3-Plan Your Solution

1. It's time to start planning your solution.
2. Talk with your teacher and parents to see if you can actually take action now or if your plan will need to wait until you are older.
3. Talk with your teacher, parents, and friends about your ideas and get some feedback and ideas to elaborate your plan.
4. Think about your gifts and talents and use those in your plan to make a difference.
5. Fill out Part 2 of the Planning Guide.
(Separate Handout)

Step 4-Take Action

Now it's time to do something!! Now, I understand that some ideas won't be able to be accomplished now, but some will. You have two options from here:

- 1. Take the first step. What do you need to do?*

Do you need to build a website to get the word out? Do it!

Do you need to write a letter to your principal to get the ball rolling? Do it!

Do you need to make educational materials like presentation slides? Do it!

Do you need to organize a charity event? Do it!

Do you need to write a letter to local stores or officials? Do it!

OR

- 2. Complete your idea!*

Did you create friendship bracelets to share with your class to make everyone feel welcome? Show us!

Did you organize a neighborhood clean up? Show us!

Did you collect and donate food to a local food pantry? Show us!

Did you make cards for servicemen and women? Show us!

You will share this first step or activity presentation with us when we return to school. Use the ideas and rubric on the next page to generate ideas.

"Take Action" Ideas

The possibilities for either option are endless! Use your imagination and be creative. As long as your idea follows the rubric, you can do it!

Take the first step ideas-

Write a letter to gain permission to do something (using correct formats)

Create a website

Create educational materials to teach about your problem and solution

Organize a charity event-get your ideas on paper

Organize a non-profit organization-get your ideas on paper

Come up with a new invention that would solve the problem and present your idea via pictures, diagrams, etc.

Complete your idea-

Make a pic collage with voice explanations of what you did.

Create a movie with pictures

Film and edit scenes from the event

Write an article for a newspaper release about the event or fundraiser

Make a website with before and after pictures from your event

Make a narrated slideshow of pics from the event

Take the First Step Rubric	Great! 8-10	Good 5-7	Acceptable 3-5	Unacceptable 0-2
Solution Idea	The idea is creative and relevant to the problem.	The idea is good and relevant to the problem.	The idea is acceptable and relevant to the problem.	The idea is confusing and/or not relevant to the problem.
First step	The first step taken is creative and appropriate to the problem.	The first step taken is effective and appropriate to the problem.	The first step is basic but appropriate to the problem.	The first step is too basic and lacks creativity or not appropriate to the problem.
Grammar	Grammar used is above average.	Grammar used is good and correct.	There are several grammatical errors and usage is average.	There are many grammatical mistakes.
Execution	There is creativity and very few mistakes in the execution of the step.	There are very few mistakes in the execution of the step.	There are multiple mistakes in the execution of the step.	The step is not executed like planned.
Effort	It is apparent exceeding effort was put forth in completion.	It is apparent good effort was put forth in completion.	It is apparent some effort was put forth in completion.	It is apparent little effort was put forth in completion.

Complete Your Idea Rubric	Great! 8-10	Good 5-7	Acceptable 3-5	Unacceptable 0-2
Solution Idea	The idea is creative and relevant to the problem.	The idea is good and relevant to the problem.	The idea is acceptable and relevant to the problem.	The idea is confusing and/or not relevant to the problem.
Presentation	The presentation is creative and effectively shows how the idea was completed.	The presentation is very good and effectively shows how the idea was completed.	The presentation is acceptable and effectively shows how the idea was completed.	The presentation doesn't show how the idea was completed.
Grammar	Grammar used is above average.	Grammar used is good and correct.	There are several grammatical errors and usage is average.	There are many grammatical mistakes.
Execution	There is creativity and very few mistakes in the execution of the step.	There are very few mistakes in the execution of the step.	There are multiple mistakes in the execution of the step.	The step is not executed like planned.
Effort	It is apparent exceeding effort was put forth in completion.	It is apparent good effort was put forth in completion.	It is apparent some effort was put forth in completion.	It is apparent little effort was put forth in completion.