

My Personal Passion Project – 6th Grade

Student Guide



Have you ever been asked if you could learn anything, what would it be? If for one period a day, for one quarter, you could study any topic, learn any skill, focus on any passion, what would you choose?

Maybe you have wanted to learn how to play a guitar, build a dog kennel, plan a travel experience, cook a gourmet meal, complete a family tree or even learn to make a movie. There is absolutely no limit to what you can learn as long as you are passionate about the subject area.

The Passion Project will help you learn:

- Knowledge seeking strategies
- How to develop lifelong inquiry skills
- How to build a web blog
- New skills and knowledge associated with your passion
- How you learn
- How to incorporate the habits of mind as a tool for reflection

This project will take us through the quarter, and you will complete a series of small tasks along the way using your blog to communicate your progress with peers, parents, and your teachers. This project will culminate in the last week of the quarter in a presentation of your choice no longer than three-minutes demonstrating your newfound skills, knowledge, and the journey of your learning process. You get to be creative in putting this presentation together, and we will explain some examples of how you might present your final project.

Step One – Passion Project Identification

Share ideas and collaborate with your committee (teacher, parents and peer team) to help establish a passion topic, a series of questions worth answering, and a desired outcome. Your project should have a very clear and balanced learning stage and a doing stage. In this step, we will also set up and access your Weebly page and blog.

Step Two – Project Proposal

Submit your Project Proposal and have it approved by your committee.

Step Three – Summary of Methods

Submit your Summary of Methods and have it approved by your committee. This is the key *learning* phase of the task.

Step Four – Action

Ready, set, ACTION! This is the *doing* phase of the project. Undertaking, completing and if necessary refining your task. It is here that you will need to find time to cook, build, learn, and understand. Most of this portion will be done *outside* of the classroom. In class, we will focus on the documentation of your journey. You will use the blog to make a minimum of three entries on how you are progressing and reflect on both successes and failures.

Step Five - Presentation

Presenting and reporting. This is where you make your three-minute presentation on what you have learned. You can present your project in a variety of ways. We will help you to make entries in your blog where you can post pictures and evidence you bring from home. From your blog, you will have a pile of evidence that you can share in your final presentation. Here are some different ways you can present your final project:

Video	Animation	Autobiography	Comic Strip
Poster	Web Page	Storybook	3D Presentation
Podcast	Flash file	Poem	
Speech	PowerPoint	Scrapbook	
Diorama	Presentation	Music and Lyrics	
Picture/Image	Booklet	Database	

Step Six – Reflection & Evaluation

As you look back on the process you will reflect on what and how you learned. Please see the attached rubric tool.

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Project Proposal Planner

Include the following in your proposal:

- ★ Date
- ★ Salutation
- ★ Introduce your project
 - What are you passionate about and why?
 - What three questions are guiding your inquiry?
 - What do you hope to be able to do after the completion of your project?
- ★ Closing and signature
- ★ Your final draft should be typed and attached to the front of the signature block page included in this packet.

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Summary of Methods Planner

Include the following in your proposal:

- ★ Date
- ★ Salutation
- ★ What will you need in order to complete your project?
 - Skills? Timeline? Schedule?
 - Necessary information? Learning? Research?
 - What assistance will you need from your committee? Others?
- ★ How will you secure your resources?
- ★ How will you document your learning? Photography? Journaling? Video?
- ★ Closing and signature
- ★ Your final draft should be typed and attached to the front of the signature block page included in this packet.

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Checklist for Completion

★ ***Submit Proposal***

★ ***Summary of Methods***

★ ***Blog Entry #1***

★ ***Blog Entry #2***

★ ***Blog Entry #3***

★ ***Presentation***

★ ***Self-Assessment***

Project Proposal

Signature Block

Student

Parent

Peer Team Member

Peer Team Member

Teacher

Summary of Methods

Signature Block

Student

Parent

Peer Team Member

Peer Team Member

Teacher

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Assessment & Evaluation Rubric

	Beginning 1 point	Intermediate 2 points	Accomplished 3 points
Evidence of Learning	Has little to no evidence of the learning process.	Has produced either photographs or the item itself with little other evidence to support your journey.	Has produced the item and photographs or other records of your learning process.
Reflecting on Learning	Does not identify what that they would change or keep in doing this again.	Can identify factors that made the process ineffective or effective.	Can clearly identify factors that assisted or confused the process and have alternate strategies in place to make the learning experience better in the future.
Was the Goal Achieved?	No, and there is no real explanation of why this happened.	Yes or no, but there is a clear understanding of why and if the goal was achieved it was partially successful.	The goal was achieved.
Speaking and Listening Skills	Has very little information prepared and it is unclear what happened during the learning process.	Has prepared a presentation and or speech and can communicate the learning process to others.	Can clearly articulate your learning journey through a prepared presentation and other resources.

Additional Comments:

Final Score: _____