

Curiosity journals

Getting students inspired to solve problems starts with helping them become more observant. Through curiosity journals, students can discover possible projects, sparking project-based learning opportunities, by practicing seeing. By compiling student observations, we can collectively create and curate curriculum.

ORIGINAL IDEA BY:

Bo Adams
*Mount Vernon Institute
for Innovation*

Objective

Encourage student curiosity, provide students with learning-by-doing experience in developing curriculum and executing projects, and address an authentic community challenge

How it works

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Students see something that intrigues them (*something that works well, bugs them, could work better, is broken or simply makes them say, "hmmm..."*)
2. They take a snap photo with their phone (*or capture with an alternate method*)
3. They upload their images, ideally to a collective site (*or email that sends to collective site*)
4. Then guide students to review photos to find patterns and trends that might be opportunities for meaningful problem solving

TOOLS NEEDED

- Device to capture observations (*Phones, camera, etc.*)
- Platform for uploading photos (*Wordpress, Google Community, Instagram, Twitter with a hashtag, etc.*)

Indicators of progress

Regular critique of project components, presentation practice, and blog post commenting. Eventually shared regularly with parents, other teachers, and members of the community