

## Project Idea Generator

Use a lens to focus your thinking. Focus on your local place, its problems, its people, possible partners, a personal interest, a passion.  
 Use the lens of time – past, present, possibility in the future. What profession will students model in their project? What learning needs does the student have?  
 Visit, investigate, read, imagine, connect the local/close/inward/familiar to what is more distant – city, state, country, world, universe – or unknown.  
 Think local to global, little to big, specific to general, real to concept, analog to digital, known to unknown. What engages you?

Lenses	Place	Problem	People	Partners	Personal	Passion
<b>Past</b>	<u>Investigating the local, old cemetery filled with graves of 19<sup>th</sup> century Norwegians and Germans.</u> I wonder... <b>How did early immigration to our area influence our culture and economy today?</b>	<u>Watching a documentary on Zika virus,</u> I am amazed that world scientists know no cure to save babies and parents. I wonder... <b>What do effective problem solvers do when they get stuck?</b>	<u>Attending a program at Golda Meir School,</u> I was struck by how little I knew Golda Meir's life and influence. I wonder... <b>How did a local girl come to have so much influence on world affairs?</b>	<u>Listening to political news</u> and thinking about my community's angry political talk about candidates and issues, I wonder... <b>What is worth fighting for?</b>	<u>Having just finished reading Maya Angelou's autobiography, <i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,</i></u> I wonder... <b>How have personal journals influenced people's beliefs and understandings?</b>	<u>I am crazy about Mozart!</u> I often listen to his music with my grandparents. I wonder... <b>What historical, political, economic, social, personal incidents of his life likely contributed to Mozart's amazing music?</b>
<b>Present</b>	<u>Having completed a project</u> on the influence of immigrants of the past, I wonder... <b>In what ways are the immigrants of today influencing our culture and economy?</b>	<u>Visiting our local park,</u> I noticed city workers spraying the pond. I wonder... <b>How are mosquito reduction efforts by our city affecting other animals, like bees and birds?</b>	<u>Serving food to refugees from Syria</u> at a city human services center, I am amazed by the stories and sadness people talk about as they eat. I wonder... <b>Why do people move?</b>	<u>A local youth organization gives grants</u> to assist teens develop skills to change their community. I wonder... <b>How can 23 high school juniors use \$5,000 to make their community better?</b>	_____ _____ I wonder...	<u>On the way to vacation in Wyoming,</u> I visited an airport gallery filled with paintings of local landscape by a local artist. I wonder... <b>How can I create an art show that communicates love of our locale?</b>
<b>Possible</b> The future or an idea or imagining	<u>Imagining the future</u> of on-going immigration, policies, effects of war, possible space travel, I wonder... <b>What will our city's future diversity look like and how will it affect our culture and economy?</b>	Having studied the effects of pesticides on bees, I wonder... <b>If we cannot save the bees, how will we produce enough food to feed everyone on the planet?</b>	<u>Having studied Golda Meir's life and influence,</u> I wonder... <b>How will I use my talents and skills to influence my world?</b>	<u>Nearby is a pond</u> local kids use for play and investigation. It is not on our city map or cared for. I wonder... <b>How can "not-yet-voting citizens" use science and the power of persuasion to change city maps and kids' play?</b>	I read and loved the <u>Diary of Anne Frank.</u> Clearly, journals have changed others lives. I wonder... <b>How can my journal on my struggles with depression influence other people?</b>	<u>Having created a well-received art show</u> that prompted people to reflect on our local environment, I wonder... <b>In what ways do exhibit curators communicate themes, interpret material, and influence people?</b>
<b>Profession</b> Student Role	Social Historian Sociologist Economist	Biologist Etymologist Ornithologist	Historian Biographer Politician	Ecologist Water Biologist Zoologist	Writer Publisher Psychologist	Visual Artist Curator Musician
<b>PLP</b> Personal Learning Plan	Behind in science: still need credits in ecology, geology,	Want to show growth in critical thinking: work on local redevelopment team	Need credit in ELA: study biography, character development, authors	Need social studies proficiency: intern with local community partner	Need a credit in creative writing and a topic that I care a lot about	Need Fine Arts credit: Compare rap to hip hop to blues to gospel to ...

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