



20% Time / Genius Hour



The average number of classroom hours teachers dedicate to Tract each week as part of their Genius Hour/20% Time

OVERVIEW

As [AJ Juliani explains](#), traditionally, students aren't learning because they want to, but because they're being told to, and are in a constant state of being "prepared" for the next test, assignment, or grade level. To truly accelerate in their education, students need more opportunities to explore their personal passions and interests.

This is where the idea for 20% time originated; stemming from Google's own 20% policy, where employees are given 20% of their time to work and innovate on something else besides their current project. It's been successful in business (ultimately leading to the creation of Gmail and Google News), and equally, if not more, successful in the classroom.

And, while Genius Hour seems like a fantastic idea in theory, it can be a challenge to envision how it will fit into an already busy classroom. One teacher cannot be expected to fulfill the unique needs of 25+ students simultaneously. However, students require that individualized support to learn how to be collaborative and creative critical thinkers. So how can we teach the next generation these 21st century-ready skills?

Leading educator Esther Wojcicki suggests you start by doing it just 20% of the time, giving students the supportive freedom and opportunity they need to thrive during class time. After all, as Esther states, "Creativity stems from chaos. Students can't be creative if they're just sitting in a classroom following instructions."

About Tract

Tract offers on-demand, project-based classes and lesson plans designed to spark creativity and empower students to explore their own interests and passions at a self-directed pace, while within the support system of the classroom.

Solution

Tract for Genius Hour/20% Time

Grade Level

For Elementary, Middle, and High School Students

Learn More

teach.tract.app

 Sign up free at teach.tract.app

CHALLENGE

Genius Hour can be chaotic - with 25+ different students going off to explore their own interests, ideas, and passions, there's a lot for teachers to carefully monitor and plan each week to effectively manage each student's time and output. Additionally, students who are accustomed to being told what to do and how to do it can feel overwhelmed without structured assignments, making Genius Hour extremely challenging to implement.

It's also difficult for teachers to keep up with current trends, and even harder to try and be an expert in every topic or interest area their students are passionate about. With a classroom filled with varying interests, teachers need to be able to adapt their planning and processes accordingly to do Genius Hour well.

SOLUTION

Through self-directed classes, project-based challenges, and impact-driven, peer-to-peer motivation, Tract provides the structure and support to keep the whole class engaged through customized learning paths aligned to each student's unique passions and interests.

By empowering students to self-direct their learning on Tract for just 20% of your classroom time, learners will get access to the individualized support and challenges they need to thrive as successful young adults, without any new training or fancy tools required on your end.

Genius Hour Solutions



Save Time

With self-directed classes and challenges, teachers can get time back and stop stressing about individualized genius hour lesson planning



Challenge Every Learner

Give every student their moment to shine through pre-approved, appropriate resources and challenges aligning to every learning level



Provide Expertise On Every Topic

Pique every student's unique interests and provide an authentic learning experience through Tract's student leaders - who we call Creators - who are experts in a range of topics and subjects, from coding and technology, to sports and the arts, so teachers don't have to be.



Track + Monitor Individual Progress

Track individual progress through the educator dashboard, providing teachers with realtime insights and access to every project completed



The engagement levels are so high, even amongst some of my most challenging students and those who have learning disabilities...we are now going to be doing Tract Tuesday - our version of 20% Time - where their program can be dedicated to Tract for half of the day.

- Ōtaki College, New Zealand





Tract

Supercharge Your Genius Hour/20% Time

Seamlessly integrate Tract in your
classroom 20% of the time - FREE when
you request access with code
GENIUSHOUR at teach.tract.app