

Assessing Projects: Encouraging Self-Direction and Collaboration

Project Plan Examples: Water Unit

Two Different Project Plans

The following project plans demonstrate different levels of control between teacher and student. Sample 1 is more teacher directed than Sample 2.

Sample 1. Project Plan for our Water Unit

1. I will write a research paper answering the five questions I want to learn about my water topic.
 - a. My water topic is _____
 - b. The five questions I will answer are:
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
 - iv.
 - v.
 - c. Things I need to do in order to complete this project:
 - d. Materials or resources I will need:
 - e. I will complete this by: _____

This will be assessed using the Research Rubric.

2. I will create a display or model that demonstrates my understanding of my water topic. I choose to create a:
 - a. Things I need to do in order to complete this project:
 - b. Material I will need:
 - c. I will complete this by: _____

This will be assessed using the Construction Rubric.

3. I will write an editorial to our newspaper defending my opinion on a controversial water topic. I choose (please circle):

Industrial or farm pollution	Sewer run-off
Fish depletion	Recreational use
Water power	Selling water
Conservation/consumption	Water treatment
Floods/control	Dams
Irrigation rights	Groundwater overuse

Other: _____

- a. Things I need to do in order to complete this project:
- b. Material I will need:
- c. I will complete this by: _____

This will be assessed by our class-created Editorial Rubric.

4. In my group, we will decide on a question we would like to answer related to the science of water. We will design an experiment to answer our question. We will then either give a demonstration of our experiment to the class or ask them to participate in an activity.
 - a. Our question is:
 - b. Our members are:
 - c. Things we need to do in order to complete this project:
 - d. Material we will need:
 - e. We will be ready to present by: _____

This will be assessed using the Collaboration Checklist, the Design an Experiment Rubric and the Group Presentation Rubric.

Student Signature: _____	Date: _____
Parent Signature: _____	Date: _____
Teacher Signature: _____	Date: _____

Sample 2. Student Self-Directed Project Plan

This sample project plan is more student directed.

1. Generating Topics and Goal Setting

What would I like to know more about? Date: _____

- Brainstorm ideas:

What would I like to accomplish? Date: _____

- Write goals for your project:

2. Developing an Action Plan

Where can I find out more about my topic? Date: _____

- Record possible sources of information:

What is the best way to show my learning? Date: _____

- Select a way to demonstrate your learning and write about your ideas:

What do I need to work on my project? Date: _____

- Make a list of materials and resources needed for your project:

When will I do each part of my project? Date: _____

- Make a timeline of steps leading to completion of your project. First brainstorm all the things you think you will need to do:
- Now put them in sequence: Projected Dates:

3. Implementation and Monitoring

How am I doing? Date: _____

- Make a list of people who can give feedback on your progress and your work and who can help you find resources:

What changes do I need to make on my plan? Date: _____

- Reflect on your project timeline, the feedback you've received and write about changes and adjustments needed:

How will I judge my project? Date: _____

- Develop assessment criteria for the project. Decide what makes a quality project. Brainstorm parts to be assessed and establish levels of quality. Use example rubrics to help you decide. List the parts you will assess here and attach your full criteria when finished.

What do I need to do before I present? Date: _____

- Review your plan and vision for the project presentation, describe it and list the final things needing to be done.

Have I done everything I need to do? Date: _____

- Put materials together needed for presentation and practice in front of others for flow and timing. List names of those who listened and helped:

4. Assessment and Reflection

How did I do on my project? Date: _____

- Assess yourself and self-reflect using the rubric you created:
- Set possible future goals from what you've learned by working on this project:

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Teacher Signature: _____ Date: _____