

Grade

8

Unlocking the Teen Brain

SOCIAL STUDIES



Driving Question: Who are we and why do we do what we do?

Project Description:

In this introduction to Psychology unit, students learned basic concepts and ideas of psychology in order to make connections to their lives as teenagers. They read articles, watched videos and researched to learn these concepts as well as chose a topic to investigate such as stress, disorders, memory, gender, personality, motivation and the like. Students investigated and shared their thinking on a variety of psychology scenarios to show individual understanding. They used what they had learned to create chapters for an anthology that shared information on their topics of choice and the application to the teenagers including explanations for behaviors and strategies to support teenagers. This anthology was published in iTunes and shared with their class, parents and teachers.



Student Products

- ▶ Research psychology topic of choice connected to the teaching brain
- ▶ Participate in formative scenarios
- ▶ Create chapters for anthology of work on different topics and publish for the general public.

Student Reflections

"As the copyeditor, I love that I can read everyone's article so I can learn so much. Some people only learn about their topic, but I get to learn it all. The hardest part for me is organizing. There are 30 people and I have to sort them. Some are done, some are in progress, and I have to know it. Next time, I would really cut up the responsibilities, so we can split the work." - Renee

"I like reading others people's writing. It's interesting to see how other people's style. Sometimes the structure feels off, so it doesn't it quite flow. We have to figure out how to rephrase that without cutting out the meaning." - Kyle

"Getting everyone to turn in their stuff on time is the hardest part. Some students like to procrastinate, and when a student like me running the show, they might ignore me." - Victoria

"I like that feeling of satisfaction when I finish a chapter and editing. It feels good to improve on something and create something. I like working with words." - Elina

"I like how you work in a group. It keeps me on task, and I can ask my peers before others. The most challenging part was trying to shorten the writing, cutting out unnecessary parts." - Sean

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<http://cards.buildingculturebybuildingpractice.com>