



Students Making Science: The Charter School of Wilmington Video Reflection Guide

This video gives us a glimpse into The Charter School of Wilmington's (CSW) Junior Research Project, showing perspectives from students, teachers, school leaders, and community members. For educators interested in applying lessons learned from the video to their district or school context, this accompanying reflection guide offers questions to consider, and additional resources.

Involving All Faculty

'Some teachers might hear junior research science project, and think how is this applicable to me if I am an English teacher. And I think that it's important to recognize that there are different aspects of the project. Yes, it's based on, on science topics. But, the presentation, any teacher can instruct and help improve. So it's part of a process that opens up the possibilities to all teachers in any field.' – Christine Donahue, World Languages Teacher

- How does CSW involve faculty from various content areas into the Junior Research Project?
- What are the potential benefits of having teachers from a non-STEM background be involved?
- What are some of the potential challenges? How would you overcome those challenges in your district or school context?

Engaging Students in Their Own Learning

'One of the reasons why I personally really enjoyed participating in this research project and why I think it's a great thing that CSW does it is that it gives students freedom to explore the things that they're passionate about ...' – Cyrus, CSW Student

- Several students in the video comment on how the project gave them a sense of ownership of their learning. Thinking about those student comments, what resonated with you the most?
- What have you seen or done in your own educational practice that has helped engage students in their own learning? What makes such an approach challenging? What makes it successful?

Integrating Multiple Academic Disciplines & Skills

'It's important for our scholars when they leave our walls to understand that all of the different disciplines come together in the world. And so it's just as important to be an effective writer as it is to be a scientist ... And so we really focus on trying to make sure they see how all of those pieces fit together.' Angeline Rivello, CSW Vice President

- Have you ever heard a student ask, 'why do I need to learn this'? How have you, or how have educators you admire, been able to help students understand why it matters to build skills and knowledge across all content areas?
- What kinds of instructional activities or projects have you used or seen used that help integrate skills and knowledge across the content areas?

Additional Resources

[The Charter School of Wilmington](#) - Learn more about The Charter School of Wilmington's Junior Research Project.

[National Blue Ribbon Schools – High School Practices](#) - Learn more about effective practices at the high school level from other National Blue Ribbon Schools