



BIG IDEA PROJECT CURRICULUM & PROGRAM PREVIEW

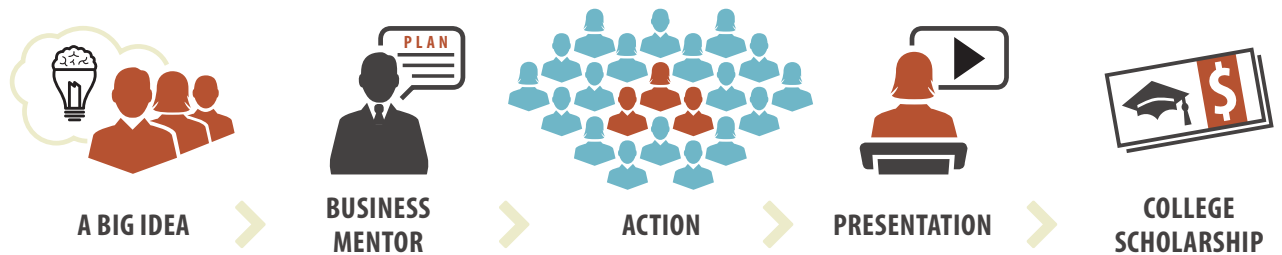
<BIG IDEA PROJECT>



Big Idea Project Overview



Big Idea Project is a turn-key service learning project where students receive community support from mentors and learn entrepreneurial confidence to take action and lead change. In teams of 3-4, students identify a need in society they want to do something about, work together with a business mentor to design an action plan, and implement their plans while chronicling their results. At the end of the semester, teams create a storytelling video and present their results to the community for the chance to win a college scholarship and a spot at the State competition.



Examples of Past Projects

BACKPACK PROJECT

Discouraged by the large homeless population in Denver, Bryce, Daniel, Kyle and Landon decided the best way they could make a difference was to go directly to the source. They sought out homeless people in Denver, hung out with them and learned from them. From these relationships, the Backpack Project was born to solve the homeless individuals' need for a way to carry their belongings with them from day-to-day. The Backpack Project organized drives to collect donated backpacks, hygiene items, shoes, and other supplies. They then hand-delivered the filled backpacks to their new friends, and saw firsthand how Generous Leadership® can change lives.



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Inspired by the principle of paying it forward, Dominic, Zach, Cameron and Robert decided that their best way they could positively impact their community was to intentionally engage in random acts of kindness. The team delivered homemade cookies to firefighters, volunteered at the Special Olympics and worked at a local food bank. Their final act of kindness was to host a St. Baldrick's event where people shaved their heads to raise money to beat childhood cancer. Over 150 students, teachers and community members participated, over \$4,000 was raised and their school's student culture was forever impacted.



See these student videos and other student projects, at www.youtube.com/BigIdeaProject

Designed by a Teacher for Teachers

Big Idea Project gives educators the flexibility to make the project fit their needs without outside teachers, strict programming or irrelevant curriculum. **Big Idea Project was created by a teacher for teachers to meet the real needs of students today.**

Throughout Big Idea Project students learn skills character qualities like:

- ✓ Team leadership
- ✓ Entrepreneurial confidence
- ✓ Creative problem-solving
- ✓ Project planning and implementation
- ✓ Social awareness
- ✓ Video storytelling
- ✓ Public speaking



“ The Big Idea Project has provided an extraordinary opportunity for students at Columbine High School. I feel it is my responsibility as the principal to ensure that students have the necessary skills that will allow them to be successful as they embark on their next journey in their lives. This worthwhile venture teaches lifelong skills. Students have learned how to receive graciously and give generously and to make a difference in the lives of others.”

Frank DeAngelis,
Speaker and former Principal
at Columbine High School

Curriculum Highlights



We've found a perfect balance between standardization and flexibility. From turnkey lessons with engaging video, to checklists and tips, we've created all the resources you need to implement the project 'out of the box.' And yet, for teachers who want the room to innovate, there is enough flexibility for you to customize the project to fit your objectives and context.



1 10 ADAPTABLE LESSONS

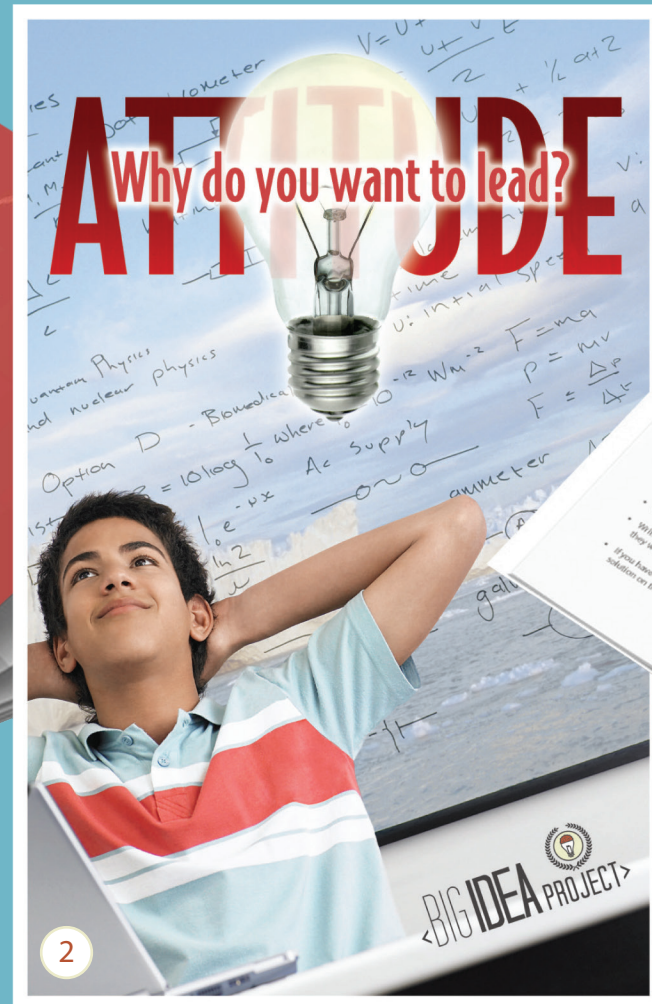
All lessons are aligned with Common Core standards and clear learning objectives. To encourage innovation, they also contain ideas teachers can use to supplement lessons for further learning. Icons and transition statements make following (and diverting) from the lesson plans easy.

2 IN-CLASS POSTERS

As students work out their Big Ideas, the poster for Generous Leadership® keeps the lesson and concept top-of-mind and encourages students to apply the principles to their work and leadership.

3 MENTORING RESOURCES

Mentors are the key touch point between the classroom and the local community. They give valuable guidance to students in problem solving, decision making, research and planning. Our mentoring resources include: a welcome letter, mentoring agreement, tips for mentoring and three Mentoring Guides mentors use during their three meetings with their team.





4 PROGRAM FACILITATION TOOLS

We provide a recommended timeline of the project to help educators plan their curriculum for the semester. Additionally, we provide other administrative and community building tools. Program materials are available in the Teacher's Edition as well as online for all registered BIP Educators.

5 PRESENTATION NIGHT MATERIALS

All schools are responsible for hosting their local presentation night. Presentation nights can be big or small—the teacher determines the scope of the night. We provide an easy checklist to run a presentation, marketing flyers schools can distribute to their community, standards, a judging rubric and a slide deck for the night of.

6 ENGAGING VIDEOS

Many lessons include custom video designed to engage students through stories and examples. For educators new to teaching leadership, our videos remove the guess-work and free you up to facilitate meaningful discussion.

Adaptable, Easy-to-Use Lessons



Our curriculum includes 10 simple lessons that vary in length from 30 minutes to 50 minutes from start to finish.

The Big Idea Project is not a separate class or program. It is designed to fit within preexisting classes to reinforce what educators are already teaching. Educators are encouraged to customize the program to meet your unique class objectives. For example, geography teachers may ask students to focus their projects on a specific region or marketing teachers may ask students to use social media marketing strategies to complete their projects.

Lesson Plan Overview:

- ✓ 1: Setting the Stage
- ✓ 6: What's the Problem?
- ✓ 2: Generous Leadership
- ✓ 7: Writing Your Plan
- ✓ 3: The Big Picture
- ✓ 8: Video Storytelling
- ✓ 4: You are a Generous Leader
- ✓ 9: Presentation Prep
- ✓ 5: Building Teams
- ✓ 10: Onward!



“ My eyes were opened to the struggles and needs in our society, and Big Idea Project provided me with the tools and inspiration needed to take action. I learned how important it is to incorporate service into our everyday lives and just how much we can change with our passion and hard work. It is truly something everyone should be a part of!”

Kaitlin Paull,
Student

Sample Lesson

LESSON

1

TIME: 15-25 MIN

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Understand the purpose of the Big Idea Project and justify 'What's in it for them.'
- Discuss the project expectations and timeline.

Materials

- Computer with internet, projector and screen
- Watch What Happens video
- What Students are Saying video
- Additional video examples from Suggested Resources
- Handout: Big Idea Project Overview
- Handout: Project Timeline
- Handout: Standards for Competition
- Handout: Project Rubric

Preparation

- Have the students complete the pre-project survey before you teach this lesson. Make it a class activity by going to the computer lab together to ensure all students complete it. Surveys are due September 15th for fall projects and February 1st for spring projects.
- This lesson includes showing at least two videos. View the videos in advance and have them card up before class.
- Select a list of recommended videos for students to watch if you choose to do the Suggested Homework.

Ideas for Supplemental Learning

- If you would like to include additional videos or social enterprise examples see our Suggested Video Resources in your Big Idea Project Educator web portal.
- To help students think about what's possible, bring in live guests from the community who started a business or project to positively impact others.

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.5
Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.3
Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.3
Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

KEY ICONS

- Play button icon
- Refresh icon
- Stop icon
- Checkmark icon

LESSON

1

SETTING THE STAGE

Play the Video: Watch What Happens

3 MINUTES

Play the video "Watch What Happens" without much introduction to get attention.

Introduce the Project

2-4 MINUTES

"This semester you will have the chance to do some work that really matters through Big Idea Project. Let's take a closer look at this project together."

- Hand out the Big Idea Project Overview.** Begin by explaining the Big Idea Project from the 20,000-foot view. Read the first section out loud.
- Stop after the first section and ask, "Why would you care about this opportunity? What, if anything, is in it for you?" Discuss some answers.
 - Opportunity to make a tangible difference in the world.
 - Chance to compete against each other, and if they win, to compete against other schools across the state and possibly win a college scholarship.
 - Opportunity to get their hands dirty and learn practical skills that will benefit them outside the classroom.
 - Experience learning alongside a business mentor.
 - Real world experience they can put on their resumes that colleges and employers look for.
- Read the second section of the Overview entitled "Results" out loud.

LESSON

1

Play the Video: What Students Are Saying

3 MINUTES

"Big Idea Project doesn't just give you the opportunity to impact others, it also gives you the opportunity to learn and grow as a leader. Watch what some Big Idea Project alumni had to say about their experience."

Introduce the Project, Continued

5 MINUTES

- Finish discussing the remaining sections of the **Big Idea Project Overview**
- Hand out **Standards for Competition** and discuss.
- Hand out **Project Rubric**, and discuss.

Play the Video: Who's Making a Difference

5-15 MINUTES

"A great way to come up with ideas for your project is to look at what other people have done to make a difference."

Choose one or a few videos of other causes that are making a difference to help students think about social needs, how people are giving back and how to use video to inspire others. Choose some videos from the Recommended Resources document in your Big Idea Project Educator web portal or choose some of your own.

BIG TIP! If it isn't a good idea to show videos of project projects this early in the game because this can inhibit their ability to be creative and come up with original ideas on their own. Examples will come in lesson 6, but if you want to show some earlier we suggest to restrict from Lesson 5.

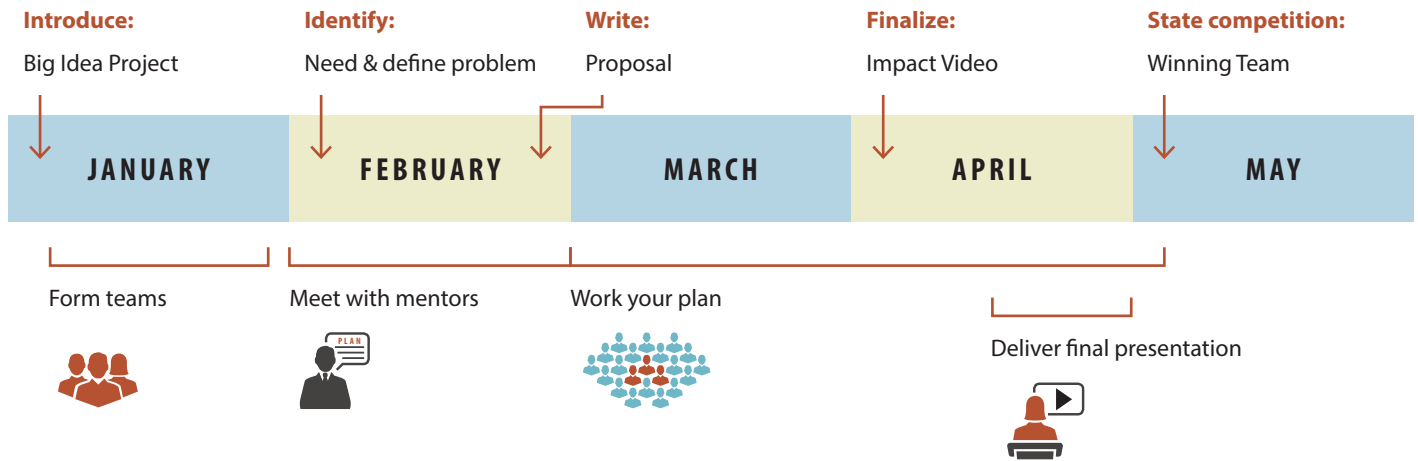
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Project Process and Timeframe



Educators can make the 10 lessons longer, shorter and even combine lessons to consolidate. How much time you choose to give students in class to work on their projects can vary, as can the amount of time you give students to implement their plans. On average, teachers generally give students anywhere from 10-20 in-class hours depending on how you structure the project.

For a better idea of project process, here is a rough timeline for a project implemented in the spring.



Project Requirements



There are additional requirements outside of teaching the curriculum in class that make the Big Idea Project so successful for students and the community. And it is these components that give you the chance to take your teaching to the next level.

Big Idea Project educators commit to:

- ✓ Recruiting and directing business mentors
- ✓ Running a local competition at your school that includes recruiting judges
- ✓ Building relationships with local businesses. It is optional for teachers to fundraise their local scholarship (\$2,000 each year).

We have created all the resources you need to implement the experience, and have even forged some local business relationships for you already.

Educator Certification



Big Idea Project requires certification so that all teachers have the information and resources they need to guide the experience. Certification is a one-time thing. Certification also includes your first year membership so that you have access to our network of partners, administrative support for local competitions, and participation in the state competition.

The training will give you everything you need to be successful.

You will learn to:

- ✓ Guide students through the curriculum and project
- ✓ Facilitate team-building exercises
- ✓ Teach problem-solving methods
- ✓ Use creativity-building strategies
- ✓ Align Big Idea Project with your curriculum
- ✓ Recruit mentors
- ✓ Build a professional network
- ✓ And much more!



The Big Idea Project gave my students self-confidence by helping them realize that they can have an impact on the world around them. Watching them overcome roadblocks and present their projects to the community brought me great pride as teacher. An added benefit was that many of my students added Big Idea Project to their resumes and college scholarship applications."

Alfredo Rodriguez,
Big Idea Project Educator



\$549 certification

The cost of certification is \$549 and includes training, program materials, online resources, customizable school webpage, marketing materials and ongoing support services.

Next Certification

For more information about certification and to register contact Info@bigideaproject.org.



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