

Panasonic Student Eco Citizenship Project



Teaching and Collaboration Tips

The 21st Century skills such as: communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking are integrated into the Panasonic Student Eco Citizenship Project. This document provides teaching tips and collaboration ideas to enhance the productivity of student teams.

Teaching Tips

- Have a clearly stated purpose and learning objective for each lesson. Give feedback often.
- Make connections to students' prior experiences.
- Students should save all work as they will need to refer to it in other lessons.
- Encourage students to watch the news or find current events which pertain to ecosystems.
- Short on time? Try the classroom flipped instruction strategy. Assign the research, reading, and/or prep-work the night before class for students to complete independently. On the following day, have a deeper discussion around the objective of the lesson with an activity to follow.
- Have the students take ownership of the project by assisting in planning and time management discussions. (Refer to the Student Time Management document listed in the online resources).
- Integrate technology as much as possible in the student research, artwork, outlining or when answering questions. For example, teach students how to create tables in a document.

Collaboration Tips

Teacher to Teacher Collaboration Ideas:

- **Share best practices.** Find other teachers at your school conducting the Student Eco Citizenship Project. Set a time to meet and share classroom implementation ideas.
- **Reach out to community members.** Have guests share how they are actively involved in ecology or environmental issues through their job or volunteering.
- **Meet with others in your school.** Set a time to meet with the principal, food service department or school custodians and discuss how students can assist with recycling initiatives, grounds maintenance or energy efficiency. Pre-discuss current practices and how students can take a leadership role.

Teacher to Student Collaboration Ideas:

Create trust amongst members of the team:

- Have students find similarities within their team by having them introduce themselves to the group in unique ways. Start each day/class period with one question. Examples are listed below. Have students share their answers with their group. Repeat this exercise each time the groups change.
 - ✓ If you were a color what color would you be and why?
 - ✓ How many siblings do you have? Do you wish you had more or less? and why?
 - ✓ If you were a _____, what would you be and why? (e.g., animal, shape, color, ice cream flavor, pizza topping, city, car...)
 - ✓ Would you prefer ___ or ___? (e.g., A beach vacation or mountain vacation? A mystery or comedy movie/book...)

Practice good communication:

- Ask students what a good listener looks and sounds like. Brainstorm and share ideas. Construct a classroom chart of examples.
- Provide examples of good communication techniques. Such as:
 - ✓ Eyes on the speaker.
 - ✓ No talking when others are talking.
 - ✓ Give everyone a fair chance to speak.
 - ✓ Limit the time for each member to talk so that no individual dominates the conversation.

Practice how to express opinions:

- Teach, model and provide a safe way for students to express their opinion and to value others' opinions. For example, teach students how to respond to ideas with which they do not agree, (such as: 'Let's write that thought down, as it may be a good idea to discuss at a different time or during a different lesson.').

Assign group roles:

Students should discuss various strengths they each have and what role is most suitable for them within the group. Roles can change from day-to-day. Such roles could include:

- ✓ **Material Gatherer.** This person collects, distributes, and puts away materials the group uses during work time.
- ✓ **Timekeeper.** Keeps an eye on the time and goals to get work accomplished.
- ✓ **Recorder/scribe.** Documents (records) the responses/answers of the team members.
- ✓ **Peacekeeper.** Reminds teammates of good communication, how to express opinions, and that everyone is there for a common goal.
- ✓ **Tech Consultant.** Responsible for use of technology and issues that may arise.
- ✓ _____ (Create your own role).

Note: The student with the "Timekeeper" role should use and refer to the group's pre-planning lesson chart from the Time Management Worksheets for Students (found in the online teacher resources) when groups are working together on Lessons 4, 5, and the Diary Picture construction.