**Genius Hour Semester 2 Reflection and Evaluation**

**Your Name: Aurora Paquette**

**The Title of Your Genius Hour Project: The History and Art of Poi**



**Summarize the purpose of your Genius Hour project in 140 characters.**

I wanted to share the history and techniques of poi to anyone who wanted to learn.

**Explain the process of your Genius Hour project. Be reflective. Be contemplative.**

It started out as me learning how to dance and ended with me teaching other how to dance. Was it a success? I do not know. Did I have fun? Yes! I learned so much. I have better hand eye coordination and skill. I know how to do many tricks and will learn many more.

**Explain and describe your journey. (No Less Than Three FULL Paragraphs.)**

I started sharing my knowledge early. The first thing I did was tell my friends about my dance class. I then showed them what it was and they thought it was cool. I then was told about genus hour and decided to do my project on poi. I was introduced to poi when I went to Diasho Con 2013 with my sister. I went to the two Raves and saw what appeared to be spinning balls of light I asked what it was and if I could try it out. The dancer I was talking to let me and it started my passion for poi.

 I shared this story on my blog as one of my first posts and then studied the music the style the art form of it. I asked the principals if I could bring poi to school they said yes I practice in the halls before and after school I also went to a few dances and spun there I had so much fun. I hope that people start to enjoy spinning and recognize that it is dangerous. LED poi can sting if you get hit and if you are spinning fire be careful. Fire can burn. Know the safety protocols of your town and have fun. When you start poi use weighted poi because it will build muscle endurance and keep practicing with the weighted to keep the endurance.

What started out as a Rave experience became a class presentation. From the presentation came demonstrations at dances. Demonstrations became teaching experiences. I hope that feature spinners share their talent with others. Most of the time I was nervous to write about poi or I did not know what to say. Over time I overcame that fear.

**The intention For Genius Hour is NOT only to learn, but ALSO to share your knowledge with others who can and will benefit from your learning. How did you share your learning? What do you hope the result might be? (No Less Than Two Full Paragraphs.)**

 I shared my learning at dances. I got friends to try it, a DJ tried it, and even teachers tried it. As time goes on I hope that people start to learn about poi. I shared poi at the light show and am wanted back to teach a few to spin. I would love to do so and hope that people at school want to learn.

I hope that their experiences with poi are as uplifting as mine where. I do not mind if people do not like poi because my lesson I want to teach is follow your passion and be who you want to be. That is what life is for it is for people to be people and find joy. To quote a wise man “Man is that he might have joy” find your joy in life and follow it to the end. That is what I did.

**If you could do anything different with your Genius Hour project what would you do differently and why? (No less than two full paragraphs.)**

I would be more prepared get a good camera that can record in low light. I would invest in a DSLR camera because it is high grade and inexpensive that I could use in my career field too. I would also find better places to practice and practice 1 to 2 hours a day. I would also spend more time telling about my journey and learn how to blog better. I would have loved to have more time to work on the project.

I would also have loved to be able to teach a few students next year how to spin. I should also have someone video tape me at the dances that I attend. I need to be more dedicated to the project and choose something that does not get redundant after a while. I am going to keep my website but use it for pretty much anything of interest. I think I will change it to my life dreams because I am going to post stories and links to my other sites.

**Reflect on what you did well during this Genius Hour process? Note your successes and accomplishments. (No less than two full paragraphs.)**

I did not give up on it not matter how frustrating a new dance move was I tried again and again learning the rhythm and the tempo learning to hear the music and put it into dance. No matter how boring the research was I always tried to find new ideas and topics. My biggest success was at prom when the DJ tried poi.

I know that most of my time was spent learning outside of school and research it was attending dance class which I seldom missed. Now I am going to be in a production that my dance academy is putting together. I cannot wait to see how far I have come.

**Include any videos, pictures, presentations, or artifacts that will document your journey.**