

Group Project: Future Tech Town Hall

Textbook

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Project Overview:

Students will research an emerging technology that could improve schools in the future (like VR headsets, AI tutors, or smart whiteboards). Then, they will write a formal letter or email to a local or federal education official explaining their idea and requesting support or action. The project will include researching from multiple websites, including government websites, and using the appropriate voice and tone when addressing an adult official.

Step-by-Step Instructions:

Step 1: Learn About Emerging Technologies (30–40 min)

Students will research 3–4 examples of emerging technologies that could affect schools or learning.

- **AI Tutors** (like Chatbots)

- **Virtual Reality (VR) for Education**
- **Augmented Reality (AR) in Science Labs**
- **Wearable Tech for Focus or Health Tracking**

Suggestion: Use short readings or articles from kid-friendly sources like Newsela or CommonLit.

Step 2: Research in Action (40–50 min total)

Students work in small groups **or** individually to **choose one technology** they think could help schools. ****In this instance, working alone may prove more advantageous since the final product requires personal opinion.****

Complete a **Research Organizer** answering:

- What is this technology?
- How does it work?
- How could it help students or teachers?
- What are some facts or statistics to support this idea?

Sources to use:

- **General info:** Sites like <https://www.kiddle.co> or <https://kids.britannica.com>
- **Statistical questions:** Use guided searches like "How many schools use VR?"
- **Government/civic websites:** Examples include:
 - www.ed.gov (U.S. Department of Education)
 - www.congress.gov (to find your representative)
 - Local school board site or mayor's office site

Step 3: Write a Formal Email or Letter (30–40 min)

Students write to a **local school board member, state education department, or federal education official**, explaining:

- What the technology is
- How it could benefit schools
- Why it should be considered or supported

Focus:

- Using **formal tone and voice** (practice using sentence stems like "I believe..." or "I am writing to request...")
- Proper greeting, body, and closing
- Citing 1–2 facts from research

Teacher may be able offer sentence starters or a letter-writing template as assistance.

Step 4: Optional Extension

- **Send the letter/email** (digitally via the school or a mock classroom activity)
- **Hold a mock "Town Hall"** where students read their letters aloud and respond to questions as if they were presenting to a government panel.

Materials Needed:

- Internet access for research
- Research Organizer worksheet
- Letter-writing template
- Project rubric (optional, can include categories like research, writing, clarity, tone, and civic engagement)

Critical Thinking Questions:

1. What problems in education could emerging technologies help solve?
 2. Why is it important to use a formal voice when writing to an official?
 3. What is one thing you learned about researching from government websites?
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Questions (1)

1. How many steps are included in this project plan?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Choose the correct answer:

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

Answer Keys & Solutions

Questions

1. How many steps are included in this project plan?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Correct Answer:

- | | |
|------|-------------|
| A. 1 | ✗ Incorrect |
| B. 2 | ✗ Incorrect |
| C. 3 | ✗ Incorrect |
| D. 4 | ✓ Correct |