



Setting Up A Class Genius Bar

- A Genius Bar could be in place in any classroom.** In the art room, there could be geniuses who specialize in sculpture, photography, drawing, painting, or even the use of texture or color. In the math classroom, there could be geniuses for each cluster: operations and algebra, geometry, numeracy, etc. In a digital media/library classroom, geniuses may focus on searching skills, using the Big 6, or citation and sourcing.

- Part of a genius bar in the classroom needs to be fluid to find the unique talents and skills your students bring to the table.** Try not to set up the genius bar at the very beginning of school year. Instead, take that valuable time to get to know your students and to discover what natural gifts they could share.

- Build the Genius Bar organically.** Bring students along for the conversation and ask them where they feel they could contribute to helping their peers learn. Honor their choice; if it turns out this isn't their true genius, go through the discovery process with them - not for them.

- Set up appointment times during open classwork time.** Yes, it will be noisy, but students will remain on task and engaged. This provides them with brain food that's the equivalent of Miracle-Gro. Give them high-quality instruction (light), multiple ways of learning (water), some space and feed their brains with a sprinkling of genius and your students will grow faster and farther than you've ever thought possible.