



# Engineering Global Solutions

Problem-based learning at Sammamish High School  
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Educurious is a nonprofit organization funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that is working in tandem with the University of Washington Institute for Science and Math Education to create a 21<sup>st</sup> Century high school curriculum. This fall, Educurious is working with Sammamish High School through an Investing in Innovation (i3) grant by U.S. Department of Education to design the next generation comprehensive high school. Together, we will pilot test an exciting new course for 9th grade English Language Arts as part of the i3 grant design.

Our shared goal is to inspire curiosity for life-long learning. By working on authentic contemporary projects that have meaning and value, we break down the barriers between the classroom and the real world—barriers that have kept kids disengaged, bored and uninspired.

The Educurious curriculum is built on new materials, connections and delivery systems that capture students' interest and imagination and equip them for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workplace. The curriculum uses a wide array of new technologies including a creative social media platform.

A unique feature of this curriculum is the integration of real-world Experts from award-winning authors to climate change scientists. These Experts provide a window into their professional world, engage students in relevant projects on contemporary problems and give concrete feedback on student contributions. They also help students explore an array of career paths and possibilities that they may have never considered. In addition, students discover the importance of good working relationships with their peers and they begin to understand how what they are learning in the classroom is relevant to a future career or profession.

We know that you have a great deal of expertise and professional insights to offer students. It's an excellent opportunity to share your ideas and help us refine the classroom experience and best practices for the Educurious Expert Network.

We're currently recruiting mentors for the following project and we'd like to find the best way for you to be involved. Here's a quick overview:

- Course Title:** Charting Great Controversies
- Grade Level:** 9<sup>th</sup> grade, students ages 13-15
- Project:** Students will learn to write a strong, persuasive Op-Ed piece.
- Ideal Experience:** Writers with experience in written persuasion, reporting, public relations, point-of-view blogs, commentary, columnists, or developing opinion-based online content.
- Time Commitment:** 1-2 hours per week to review 5-6 students work. You will work with these same students for the entire 5 week course.

***Expert Activities:***

Week 1	Respond to student introductions and critique a sample of student writing
Week 2	Critique student topic choices for their Op-Ed piece
Week 3	Preliminary feedback on student's Op-Ed piece
Week 4	Respond to student questions to clarify feedback
Week 5	Award student badges for acquired skills

***Start date:*** Tentative week of October 24, 2011

I will be your main contact or point person for this entire process, so please feel free to call me anytime with questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

Kim Herzog  
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