

Glenn Loury: An Independent Mind

Activities and Assignments – K – 8

Make My Community Great (K-8)

Students get the opportunity to be contributors by taking part in making their community safe, clean, and inviting for everyone. This chart can be copied/pasted for the classroom or distributed for students to do at home for their family or neighborhood. Students write a tally mark each time they fulfill an objective.

Name _____

Objective:	Use Kind Words	Leave a room/space/yard better than you found it	Help someone
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

Become An Expert! (Grades 4-8)

Allow students to dream in a way that perks their natural curiosity about an academic topic. Show the [YouTube video](#) (9:20 min) about Black geniuses under the age of 16, and then have the students answer the question:

“If you could be an expert at anything, what would it be?” A non-exhaustive idea list of creative topics is below. Once a topic is selected, give the students up to 45 minutes of class time to research that topic and write notes on notecards. (Homework can be assigned.) Each student will present their expertise in a 3 - 5-minute presentation.

- Mechanics (Auto, Simple Machines)
- Computer Science - How do smartphones work? What is a hologram?
- Optical (Optics) Science (Cameras/Projectors)
- Kinesthetics
- Structural Engineering (Building/Bridge/Underwater Tunnel Construction)
- Music: Orchestration, Instrument-making, how do people sing?
- Economics – Stock market, why does inflation happen, how to invest
- Food: How vitamins are made, how candy is made, etc.
- Etymology – The origin of the American language/words
- Art: How to make paint, ink; cosmetics
- Archeological finds in my state
- Biology: How do birthmarks develop? Where is memory stored? Why do we dream?
- Chemistry: How to make perfume/cologne; how to make laundry soap at home; how plants are extracted for color, fragrance, food, etc.