

Learning for a Cause Publishing Project
Student Task Flowchart
The Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan
2017-18

Submitted in support of Michael Sweet's Kohelet Prize Application

Step Number	Task Details	Timeframe
1	Identify and think about pressing issues in our society. Issues can be drawn from across disciplines and include topics such as environment, poverty, politics & government, collective memory etc.	Ongoing
2	Research about the various topics and issues that were identified in step one. The objective is to become knowledgeable about the topics in a way that allows students to write about them thoughtfully and accurately.	Ongoing
3	Free Writing on the various topics or themes identified for inclusion in the anthology. This is where students begin to commit thought to paper. The writing process, here, is not so much about form, but rather about merely generating content to polish later on.	Ongoing (in 20 minute sessions)
4	Book Design and Guest Writer - While the writing periods are in progress, students begin to think about the book's design and layout. How many chapters and what will they be? What might the cover look like? Who do they want to invite to write the foreword or speak at the launch? Students help compose invites to send out to potential celebrity guest writers. Student collaborate in setting up the "CreateSpace" book file.	Ongoing (several sessions early on in the project, and several sessions again near the completion).
5	Begin Generating A Draft - After several free write sessions have unfolded, students begin to select excerpts of their "best writing" on the various prompts and topics to include in the book's various chapters. In this way we generate a "working draft" of the book.	Ongoing (should be started early on to provide students with a concrete visualization of the product they are creating).
6	Book Proceeds - Books are published to be sold to a general audience. As such, they generate royalties .	1-2 class sessions

	Students are asked to meet and discuss possible charities and nonprofits that could benefit from the royalties to advance the concerns they address in the books pages. As a group, by consensus, students select up to three charities or nonprofits to be the recipients of the project's royalties. We then reach out to those organizations to initiate a relationship.	
7	Proofreading and Editing - Part of being a writer is the recursive nature of proofreading and editing. Students are exposed to the considerable commitment that is required to bring written work to publishable quality.	Ongoing
8	Finalizing the book for print - Students examine their individual pages and make any final edits.	1-2 sessions
9	Uploading to CreateSpace and Printing - Technical stuff regarding POD books. Students help and observe the process “behind the curtain” in bringing a POD (print-on-demand) book to print. We also write and submit our Amazon book description and set the sale price etc. REAL world learning about the publishing process.	1-2 sessions
10	Planning the book launch - When? Who will attend and who will speak? Students select passages to read at the launch. We usually hold the book launch as an evening event at the school, so food and drink and other “event logistics” also need to be considered.	1 class session
11	The Launch - The BIG event. Students see their books, physically, in print, for the first time!	1 evening
12	Reflection and Royalties Follow Up - Students consider the whole project and reflect on the final result (the book) both as a whole and their own contributions. We also discuss royalties and how they are being put to use by the charity or nonprofit that we partnered with earlier in the process.	1 class session

*The whole book publishing project usually spans the period from September to May, intermittently, and is organically woven into the curriculum, where possible.

*Books are published through Amazon's CreateSpace.com platform, however other POD platforms are suitable and available, such as Lulu.com or Blurb.com.