



SELF-DIRECTED PROJECT IDEAS FOR EVERY FIELD

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As vaccines start being administered around the world, it feels like there is finally a light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel. However, due to the necessary precautions we must continue to take, most students are stuck at home at least for another semester. If you're a high schooler hoping to still build your profile in order to impress colleges, it's crucial that you take on initiatives and showcase your leadership skills. One effective way to demonstrate your passion and prowess in a certain area is to start a self-directed project.

Self-directed projects entail any initiative that you take up on your own — you can create a plan for it, organize a team, and brainstorm the various steps and carry them out. These projects help showcase initiative to colleges. Plus, you get to dive deeper into your interests and explore new passions. As you develop an idea that is perfectly tailored to your passions, you get to stand out with unique and tangible achievements while demonstrating strong leadership skills. But where do you start? To help you think of some ideas, we have created a list of self-directed projects for students interested in different fields.

COVID-Related Projects

STEM	
SUBJECT	IDEA
Medicine	Study the scientific steps and concepts behind testing for the Coronavirus
Medicine/Biology	Compare and contrast the structure and origin of COVID-19 vs. SARS
Medicine	Explore how the medical field has reacted to pandemic outbreaks in the past
Computer Science	Create an app or program that helps people document Coronavirus cases in their area
Computer Science	Analyze the impact of time management apps on daily productivity in isolation
Computer Science	Track apps that are released while people are in quarantine and note what they're used for
Environmental Science	Analyze the environmental effects of Coronavirus and the international response
Environmental Science	Study the kinds of environments necessary for a disease to become a pandemic
Environmental Science	Examine and compare how people react to pandemics vs. climate change

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

SUBJECT	IDEA
Journalism	Analyze sources of information and the importance of separating rumors from facts
Journalism	Explore the value of high quality journalism in the face of a crisis
Film Studies	Examine the similarities and differences between responses to the Coronavirus outbreak vs. the situations shown in films such as Contagion and Pandemic
Music/Art	Take a look at the impact of music and the arts during times of crisis

SOCIAL SCIENCES/BUSINESS

SUBJECT	IDEA
Economics	Conduct a project researching how emergency protocols by the government have developed over the years
Economics	Explore the importance of diverse perspectives in decision making and ways to make policy decisions more scientific
Economics	Compare policy and response to COVID-19 across different countries
Psychology	Study how a pandemic might affect the brain
Philosophy	Look up how ancient philosophers might have looked at the plague
Business	Investigate how grants for small businesses have been effective in the pandemic
Business	Start a food delivery service to support your local restaurants
Environmental Science	Examine and compare how people react to pandemics vs. climate change

General Self-Directed Projects

STEM

SUBJECT	IDEA
Medicine	Start a free clinic in your community
Computer Science	Build an app that makes an impact
Engineering	Help your neighborhood with its infrastructural needs
Chemistry	Conduct your own research project on the chemicals in your local river
Physics/Engineering	Build your own robot

ARTS & HUMANITIES

SUBJECT	IDEA
Writing	Write a book
Writing	Start a blog
Writing	Translate poems and do a literary comparison
Art	Create an online portfolio
Art	Host an exhibition
Art	Start a community gallery
Film	Shoot your own documentary
Music	Work on an EP or album

BUSINESS

SUBJECT	IDEA
Business	Start an online store
Business	Launch a product that can help your community
Business	Invest in the stock market
Business	Start a tutoring business
Business	Start a fashion line

Now that you've seen some ideas, you know that there is a range of the things that you can do. Work hard on these self-directed projects and you'll have tangible results that'll stand out on your activities list. Colleges will appreciate students who have gone above and beyond to succeed in their field. Good luck!