

## Innovation 101

### Overview

Innovation 101 is a unique and dynamic digital educational module that uses oral history interviews of some of America's iconic innovators (past and present) from **The Henry Ford's** OnInnovation website for active teaching and learning.

Innovation 101 is designed to be an introductory module that can be used by schoolteachers, youth service providers, instructors in colleges and universities as well as trainers in a corporate setting.

This five-day, 45-minute-a-day, easy-to-implement module is geared toward introducing participants to the basic tenets of innovation as they explore various traits and processes used by innovators, past and present. Toward the conclusion of the module, participants can focus on the core keys of innovation that can inspire them to be innovative in their own lives. Post-unit, project-based learning activities and ideas can be used in the weeks following Innovation 101 to inspire continued participant engagement.

Innovation 101 actively engages participants in critical 21st-century skills development such as critical thinking, problem solving and creativity fueling self-directed learning and digital literacy.

Supporting work sheets, glossaries of terms, inspiring quotes and project ideas offer an unduplicated learning opportunity for the teacher and the participant.

### Format of the Module

Teachers/instructors can use Innovation 101 over a weeklong period anytime during the year and/or in conjunction with related topics they are teaching. Chapters of the module are designed as lesson plans to be taught in class for 45 minutes each day. Total suggested length of the unit is 225 minutes (five days of 45 minutes each day in class). Educators have the flexibility of teaching the unit over two weeks versus the suggested one week, or they can use lesson plans individually. Optional follow-up student projects can be given out by the teacher over the following week upon conclusion of the classroom unit.

Alignment with national standards in the subject areas of Social Studies; English Language Arts; Educational Technology; Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM); Career and Employability; and 21st-Century Skills makes this module a win-win for the education sector.

### Methodology

The module is designed to use the following multi-pronged teaching approaches each day to engage and impact ALL types of learners:

- **Audio-Visual Context Setter** - Watch the interview clips.
- **Debate and Dialogue** - Engage the group in discussion to evaluate pros and cons.
- **Reflection and Reiteration** - Delve deeper into various points of view for clarity.
- **Personal Connections** - Make relevant connections with your own lives.
- **Building Empathy** - Explore real-world problems/real-world innovative solutions.
- **Post-Unit Research and Reflective Writing** - Look further into the OnInnovation website interviews and develop papers, presentations or blogs; do comparative papers on historic and current-day innovators, etc.

The module is organized under the following daily topics with a core overarching question:

- **What Is Innovation?** Why is innovation necessary in our lives and the world around us?
- **Traits of an Innovator:** Are there commonalities or congruencies?
- **Process of Innovation:** What is the difference between invention and innovation or the relation between the process of innovation and design-thinking?
- **Keys to Innovation:** Can an innovative mind-set be cultivated and practiced?
- **Innovation, Intellectual Property Rights and More:** How can we be protective of our innovative ideas yet ignite others to learn and expand from the same?