

Proof-of-Concept Project

Read this first!

Most of today will be about exposing you to many exciting ways Google tools can be used in education. When you leave, we hope you will run with some of these ideas and implement them in your classroom—or in your role as a professional developer. Several of the activities you will participate in today will be interactive, but one in particular will require you to learn-by-doing as you create something new: the proof-of-concept project.

In the last hour of the day before the celebration and reflection dinner, you will be able to put into practice one of the tools you've learned. You will choose a tool (or tools) that you're interested in and then work with a partner (or two) to create a project that illustrates how the tool might be used for a specific educational purpose.

For inspiration, Esther Wojcicki will share with you how she uses Google Docs in her high school journalism class. She will share specific strategies and procedures she uses with her students. Then, you will create your own project.

Reading the following steps will help you complete this challenging activity:

1. As you participate in the tech tool rotations and other activities today, consider which of the tools you might want to explore in more depth at the end of the day.
2. When we begin the proof-of-concept projects (at about 5:15 PM), select a partner (or two) from within your team. You will work with this person (or these two people) to create a "mock up" of something you might use in your role as an educator—or that students might create themselves.
3. Keep an open mind about collaborating with others who teach different grades or different subjects—or who have other roles as educators. You may be pleasantly surprised by the results of collaborating outside your own professional silo. Remember you need to have a product in 30 minutes, so don't let little details (or big egos) bog you down.
4. With your partner(s), spend about 30 minutes creating a proof-of-concept that meets the following criteria:
 - * Utilizes at least one Google tool
 - * Is tailored for a specific educational purpose
 - * Illustrates how you or students would use the tool
 - * Demonstrates the concept sufficiently that other GCTs might implement it
 - * Is incomplete ;)
5. This is a project in "rapid prototyping." You will need to exercise your creativity and put your innovative streak to work. We look forward to seeing what you produce.
6. Each group of partners will have 15 minutes to share their project with others on your team.
7. Finally, your team will share one of the projects with the large group.
8. Each of your projects will also be mentioned to the large group so that others might contact you if they are interested in your project.
9. Ideally, we'll also get links to all the proofs-of-concept projects posted in the GCT group.
10. Have fun!

You were each invited to the GTA because your application demonstrated that you are a creative and innovative educator. We look forward to seeing what you create at the end of what we hope is an inspirational day!