Updated reflection 12/12/14

Having students generate their own science fair projects has been very challenging. Developing student interest in science is a long term initiative that requires them to ask questions at every stage. Essentially, this would become their "fanny pack" from which to pull when it is time to explore their own ideas. At this point, half of my students participated in science fair while the other half have experimental ideas with which experiments need to be completed. Considering the limited number of experimental experiences that my students have had in about 1.5 years with me thus far, a 50% completion rate is not unreasonable. In the coming months, we will have to engage in quite a few more design, data collection and processing, and conclusion and evaluation experiences to meet the IB requirements for the internal assessment.

I am eager to explore how to integrate inquiry into a human physiology unit because I know that there is such a reliance on vocabulary and memorization in a unit like this. Having students use physiological sensors like grip and heart rate would enable them to create experiments that test physical responses. This, in fact, may be more relevant to students because they would be able to relate it to physical experiences.

I will also have students engage in online experiences that will enable them to manipulate variables and collect data. The advantage of these is that they can repeated without additional expense and with minimal time investment. These simulations are available for laboratory experiments but for phenomenon like evolution as well.