

Project-Based Learning

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La Vista Conference Center
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Objectives

Participants will gain an understanding of the following:

- What are the elements of project-based learning?
- Where do I begin?
- What is my role?
- How do I embed literacy skills into project-based learning?
- Where can I go to learn more?

What are the elements of project-based learning?

What do you notice about project-based learning from this example?

<http://y4y.ed.gov/Publish/Chapter.aspx?CourseMasterID=1&ChapterMasterID=1>

- Inquiry-based
- Student-directed or student-driven
- Tied to academic learning objectives (across the curriculum)
- Students work collaboratively to solve a real-world problem

Edutopia defines project-based learning as...

“a dynamic approach to teaching in which students explore real-world problems and challenges, simultaneously developing cross-curriculum skills while working in small collaborative groups.”

Where do I begin?

Creating a meaningful project...

- Reflects students' interests (what is important to them)
- Based on a real world problem
- Relevant to students, families, the community

Where do I begin?

Activity: Movie Poster

- ✓ Imagine that a movie will be made of what happens in your lives, in your neighborhood, community, school, family.
- ✓ Create a poster to advertise your movie.
- ✓ The only words on the poster will be the title.

What is my role?

- Identify and organize key stakeholders who can help with planning and implementation
- Facilitator of student learning (support, guide)
- Work with teachers to identify connections to school-day learning objectives
- Evaluation: What was the impact?

What is my role as a facilitator of learning?

- Learning **process** is more important than the **product**
 - ✓ Research skills
 - ✓ Communication
 - ✓ Collaboration
 - ✓ Problem-solving
- Opportunities for teacher, family, and community involvement
- Reflection

Embedding Literacy into PBL

- **Reading:**

- ✓ Books (informational texts), magazines, newspapers, websites

- **Writing:** (writing and revising to clarify thinking, editing)

- ✓ Note-taking, interviews, letters, learning log or journal, written summaries, creating presentations

Embedding Literacy into PBL

- **Speaking:**

- ✓ Small group discussion with other students, interviewing experts, presentations to an audience

- **Listening:**

- ✓ Interviewing experts, listening to presentations, web-based resources

- **21st Century Skills:**

- ✓ Critical thinking, communication, collaboration
- ✓ Using, managing, and evaluating information from digital technology

Where can I go to learn more?

- **You for Youth**
<http://y4y.ed.gov/>
- **Edutopia**
<http://www.edutopia.org/stw-project-based-learning-best-practices>
- **Buck Institute for Education**
<http://www.bie.org>
- **National Writing Project (Writing for a Change)**
<http://www.nwp.org>
- **Partnership for 21st Century Skills**
<http://www.p21.org>