Project-Based Learning

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The Power of Afterschool and the Future of Learning
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

- Edutopia

- Buck Institute for Education
  [http://www.bie.org](http://www.bie.org)

- National Writing Project ([Writing for a Change](http://www.nwp.org))

- Partnership for 21st Century Skills