All About Project-Based Learning

WebQuest Description: What do you know about Project-Based Learning (PBL)? PBL is a great way for students to learn concepts through an in-depth exploration of a topic. When you finish this webquest, you'll have a good understanding of PBL and how it can work for you.

Grade Level: College / Adult
Curriculum: Professional Skills
Keywords: project-based learning, differentiated learning
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Introduction

Keeping up with new teaching concepts and methods can be a challenge. I know this, from personal experience. My goal is to teach you about one new tool that you can use in the classroom. Your objective is to learn about Project-Based Learning and what it does for your students. You will learn how easy it can be to use this tool for different grade levels and differentiated instruction in nearly all subject areas. Once you've learned something about Project-based Learning, you'll begin to think about your own projects and incorporating PBL in your classroom!

Tasks

Your task will involve three steps ...Step One: Learn what Project-Based Learning is and create a definition of your own. Step Two: Learn the history of Project-Based Learning. Step Three: Learn the benefits of Project-Based Learning and determine how PBL would benefit your particular class or subject area. Step Four: Examine some examples of projects and brainstorm your own ideas.

Process

Step One: Follow these links to read definitions of Project-Based Learning:
http://pbl-online.org/About/whatisPBL.htm
http://www.gsn.org/web/pbl/whatis.htm
Make sense? Good! Now in your own words, define PBL.
Step Two: Click on this link to read a brief history of PBL ... it's older than we think:
Step Three: Why Project-Based Learning? What are the benefits of using PBL in your classroom? Click on these links to get some answers!
http://www.edutopia.org/project-learning-introduction
How could PBL work in your classroom? What are the benefits of implementing it yourself?
Step Four: Ready to look at some examples of Project-Based Learning? Follow these links:
http://www.wested.org/pblnet/exemplary_projects.html
http://www.project-approach.com/examples/projects.htm
(all lower elementary grades)
http://college.cengage.com/education/pbl/project/project.html
Want more? Check out the PBL Clearinghouse for more. You have to sign up for access but it's free.
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Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category and Score</th>
<th>Beginning 1</th>
<th>Developing 2</th>
<th>Very Good 3</th>
<th>Exemplary 4</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Definition of Project-Based Learning</td>
<td>Can briefly describe Project-Based Learning</td>
<td>Has a good understanding of Project-Based Learning, but may not be able to fully describe it</td>
<td>Has a good understanding of Project-Based Learning.</td>
<td>Has an excellent understanding of Project-Based Learning and can describe it in his/her own words.</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits of Project-Based Learning</td>
<td>Understands that Project-Based Learning is beneficial</td>
<td>Understands that Project-Based Learning is beneficial and can name one or two specific benefits.</td>
<td>Understands that Project-Based Learning is beneficial and can name several benefits.</td>
<td>Understands that Project-Based Learning is beneficial, can name several benefits, and can apply them to his/her own class or subject area.</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**Conclusion**

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**Teacher Page**

Project-Based Learning is a fantastic way to get your students involved in their learning. It's also a great way to use differentiated learning, scaffolding, and multiple intelligences. While I'm no expert on PBL, I can tell you from experience that using PBL in my own class has been fun and eye-opening for me as well as my students. Each year, they surprise and amaze me with what they create. It's a lot of work to design a project, but take my word that it's well worth it. Good luck!

**Standards**

**Credits**

**Other**