

Project Based Learning (PBL) is an inquiry based process for teaching and learning that focuses on a complex question, problem, or challenge that students work in collaborative groups to figure out. Generally, students work together, but sometimes they work individually to find or learn content, information and facts about the subject. The students do this to answer their overall question, problem, challenge, or goal.

An example of PBL that could be used in English is the teacher could plan a project on Literature in the United States. The driving question is, How does culture influece literature? This project will allow students to choose an athour or a book and research the cultural influences present in their writing. The teacher will give the students a set of guidelines and a rubric to follow that will be used to evaluate their project. The students will then be shown where and how to gather resources and the taught the key skills they will need to complete this project. The students will begin the project indivually or in a group and will have a seies of checkpoints to make sure they are completeing tasks on time. After they presentent they will reflect on the overall process.

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http://asiasociety.org/files/PBL.png

http://tinyurl.com/22uuby5

3. Plan the Assessment

1. Plan with the final goal in Mind

5. Manage the Process

2. Create the Driving Question

4. Outline the project

PBL is taught using five Principles. The first principle is plan with the final goal in mind. In this stage teachers will develop a project idea, select standards, develop the scope of the project, create the best possible learning environment, and choose a strategy and project. The second principle is creating the driving question. At this stage the teacher will produce the driving question, refine the driving question, use standards to develop the question, and then choose the driving question and then choose a standard to focus on. The third principle is plan the assessment. The Teacher should support products with outcomes, use rubrics, and practice the project. The fourth principle is outlining the project. In this stage the teacher should organize tasks and activities, start on the project, get resources, and choose key skills and content. The final principle is managing the process. During this final stage the teachers will share project goals with students, use problem-solving skills and tools, and plan for evaluation and reflection. Also, they will choose management tools and create strategies for evaluation, use checkpoints, and objectives.

Also, PBL is benefitical to use in the classroom because it engages all students, regardless of how they learn, to be actively involved in the projects. PBL gives students a chance to think deeply about the content they are learning. Students are not assessed by a test or essay rather they are evaluated on their project based work.

Project based learning gives students a chance to voice their opinions. These projects are carefully designed, managed, and evaluated to help students learn key academic content, and practice life skills. Some life skills that the students practice are group work, communication, critical thinking, and problem solving.