The New York State Office
of Religious and
Independent Schools

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE CENTER (PDRC)

The Upstate PDRC – All NYS Regions North of NYC

Beyond the Book Report:

## How to use Google Tools to Create a Project-Based Learning Classroom

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- previous homeschooler

What Are Today's Objectives?

- create an understanding of Project-Based Learning: what it is and what it is not
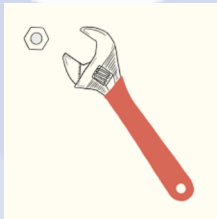
- look at tools to create an organized and clear PBL classroom using the Google Suite (teacher tools AND student tools)

- share resources, fresh ideas, and tips to create a streamlined transition from in-person to online teaching

Poll:

What is your level of proficiency with Google Tools (Slides, Sheets, Sites, Meet, Earth, etc…) ?

1 - •I'll need you to demonstrate how you create things in these applications

2 - •I can make my way around pretty well with little explanation

3 - •I navigate Google in my sleep with my hands tied behind my back and the bed on fire

What is Project-Based Learning?

(throw some ideas into the chat box!)

- making learning come ALIVE!

  - active engagement in real world challenges

- promotes critical thinking, creativity, and communication skills

  - involves assessment beyond a grade

More Importantly…
What is Project-Based Learning
NOT?

It is not…

"doing a project" (or a science experiment, or a book report)

memorizing information and repackaging it

about the end product

ever the same twice!

Edutopia: Five Keys to Rigorous Project Based Learning

Five Keys to Rigorous Project-Based Learning:
1. **Teaching through Real World Problems and Applications**

some ideas for PBL units that are relevant to today's students:

"How can I use my voice to create change?"(ELA)

"How can our observations of the natural world help us solve human problems?" (STEM/STEAM/STREAM)

"What impact did WWII have on today's global relations?" (History)

Five Keys to Rigorous Project-Based Learning:

2. Content Based, Academically Challenging

- **Root the project in the standards you are trying to teach**

- **Clearly identify these before you begin planning, and use them as a tool**

Five Keys to Rigorous Project-Based Learning:
3. Structured Collaboration

- **Working together is a main component of PBL!**

- **With Google Tools, this can be done both in the classroom and at home**

- **Convenience for Distance Learning (due to school closures) OR even student absences**

Five Keys to Rigorous Project-Based Learning:

4. Student Driven

- Students must be invested

- Create choice boards, allow freedom for presentation variations

- Let students DISCOVER rather than teaching them what to learn

Five Keys to Rigorous Project-Based Learning:
5. Assessments Beyond a Grade (multi-faceted assessments)

● Create different points of assessment throughout the unit (formative)

● Have students assess themselves and each other

● Create rubrics and give narrative feedback

PROCESS

- Identify what you want the students to walk away with knowledge of *(create an Entry Point)*
- Identify learning goals *(Standards)*
- Identify the driving question
- Identify the student choices (How to present, how to work through the problem, what assignments will be relevant?)
- Identify modes of student collaboration
- Create Assignments, Quizzes, and Worksheets
- Structure research and guide research towards team's chosen solution
- Create a rubric for both project assessment and team self-assessment (agency)
- Set checkpoints

Leave room for adjustment!

- Help create ideas for presentation
- Create a method of feedback

How Do You Write a GREAT Driving Question?

From Edutopia:

"A DQ helps to initiate and focus the inquiry. Remember the project shouldn't be trying to solve the world's problems. Instead, it should be a focused action, and focused inquiry; the goal is to ensure the students are focused. The teacher needs to help focus the teaching and learning, and the driving question help with that.

It also captures and communicates the purpose of the project in a succinct question. When reading the driving question, the teacher and student should be clear on what the overall project is as well as its purpose. Also for the teacher, it helps to guide planning and reframe standards or big content and skills."

https://www.edutopia.org/blog/pbl-how-to-write-driving-questions-andrew-miller

Why do you need a GREAT Driving Question?!

- **Sparks interest**

- **Creates a feeling of clarity**

- **Answers the age old question:**

    "WHY ARE WE EVEN LEARNING THIS?!"

Examples of Unit Lessons and Driving Questions

1. How can _____ improve _____?
How can robotics improve the healthcare industry?
How can access to clean water improve communities in developing nations?

2. How can _____ be applied to _____?
How can economics be applied in our daily lives?
How can ethics be applied to solve environmental problems?

3. How can _____ change _____?
How can individuals change their communities?
How can the human behavior change the environment?

4. How would you design a new _____?
How would you design a new system to purify water?
How would you design a new flag for your community?

https://www.penpalschools.com/blog/easy-project-based-learning-question-stems-for-essential-questions

Sample PBL Classroom:
"Plastics In the Ocean"

- **walk through the Google Apps that can be used for Project-Based Learning**

- **we will identify the tool that can be applied to each "key" and "process step"**

- **show you tools for both the <u>teacher side:</u> (planning, scheduling, assessment) and the <u>student side:</u> (communication, collaboration, presentation)**

Sample PBL Classroom:
"Plastics In the Ocean"

- **creating a syllabus (slides vs. docs) -- unit (topic, name); entry point (interesting fact); driving question**

- writing a learning goals/standards list and template for aligning tasks + goals(slides and docs)

- **setting checkpoints (calendar/classroom)**

- **identifying modes of student collaboration (hangouts, comments in docs/sheets, etc., jamboard, meet)**

- **creating a digital student choice board, structuring research, and creating assignment and worksheet hyperdocs: They're all connected!**

- **creating a method of feedback and assessment (formative and summative), creating a rubric**

Sample PBL Classroom:
"Plastics In the Ocean"

- **Creating a Digital Student Choice Board**
- **Structuring Research**
- **Creating Assignments/Worksheet Hyperdocs**

They're all connected!

[student choice board link to FREE template on Teachers Pay Teachers](#)

Q & A TIME

My questions for you:

- **Do you have a better knowledge of what PBL is than you did an hour ago?**

- **What Google Tool(s) that I presented are you most excited to implement into your own lessons?**

- **Does anyone have a PBL idea that they would like to share?**

Ready to create your own Project Based Learning Unit?

**[Rubric for Project Design (to assess the the PBL unit that you will teach)
(from PBLWorks)](...)**

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Thank You for Joining Us!

https://www.nysed-soris-upstate-pdrc.org/p-od-webinars-interactive-sessions