Project-based Learning

Possible Library and Community Connections

Project-Based learning is a teaching method in which learners gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge. Project-based learning often has these elements in common. Projects are often conducted as a school/community collaborative.

• Challenging question and meaningful problem

• An extended period of inquiry or investigation time

• Authentic real-world tasks and impact

• Student voice and choice

• Self-reflection and evaluation

• A published product or presentation

The work is driven by student inquiry, brainstorming, data collection, interactions with experts, and discovery of resources that are needed. Students work independently to select their goals and create the products that make sense for their challenge. The teacher/leader and librarian exist as resources to help frame a successful PBL project and to guide students about experts in the field, good sources for information, and next steps to take. Librarians might help students build websites of sources or offer advice on how to use appropriate databases, contact local experts, or collaborate with other students (or, as in our project, campus and district personnel). But all of this is enabled and supported by physical and online spaces that support and invite these characteristics.

Project Examples

<https://www.teachthought.com/project-based-learning/a-better-list-of-ideas-for-project-based-learning/>