



**JORGE
VALENZUELA**

Coaching educators: PBL, life skills, and influence

Website: lifelonglearningdefined.com

Podcast: Learning Defined Podcast

Instagram: @JorgeDoesPBL

Twitter: @JorgeDoesPBL

Facebook: @JorgeDoesPBL

YouTube: @JorgeDoesPBL

A little bit about Jorge

- ☐ Education coach, author, speaker
- ☐ Lives in VA, from NY

"Instructional Coaching is helping students get the teachers they need and deserve."

Coaching Basics

- Keep things organic; intentionality comes later.
- Before you design a lesson (buy books, go to the PD, etc.), ask yourself, "what do the kids I teach need?"
- A coach's job is to translate what the central office asks into the language of the ones being coached.

Transactional vs. Transformational Leadership

- Transactional Leaders - here are the tools (books, PD, etc.), bring me results
- Transformational Leaders - let's build your skills together so that we can tackle greater challenges

Instructional Model

- Every district needs an instructional model, i.e. the how's and what's of the curriculum.
- When teachers and leaders are given a framework, they are able to self-identify their own place in the process and have a workable piece on which to improve.
- We should never be talking about teachers or making decisions about teachers when they are not in the room.

When entering a coaching situation

- Begin by doing foundational research in the classroom. What is actually happening?
- Does the learning objective match the conversation in the classroom?
- Move to how AI or tech integration which can make their processes simpler.

Having those touch coaching conversations

- Make observations about how students are responding to instruction. Recognize that your observation only covered a small amount of time... then ask clarifying questions.
- After the questions are answered, give affirmations. What did they do well?
- Constructive feedback: I wonder...
- Give them a resource/tool/practice to help. How might (this tool) support what you are trying to accomplish in the classroom?
- Your feedback is being given to either 1) a teacher who knows it's coming because they're evaluating their own classroom well, or 2) a teacher who has no idea what is coming.
- In addition, there's nuance to providing feedback in a way that fits the teacher. A long-term veteran who has their room organized well may need a step that brings them closer to excellence, whereas a new teacher may need a redirection and a step in a new direction.

Coaching Project-Based Learning (PBL)

- Buck Institute for Education (now PBLWorks) is the leader in pedagogical training on PBL.
- PBL is a research-based instructional approach. Teaching in PBL looks like a continuum where instruction comes alongside the work, rather than getting unloaded on students at the beginning.
- Always begin with your learning objectives in mind. Translates those objectives into student learning goals. Know your students, what they know and don't, and what they need.

- Figure out appropriate levels of student autonomy.
- Best resources for PBL trainings: PBL+

Shifts in Student Engagement

- Students are losing motivation to learn. There is a growing disconnect between students and teachers in terms of values and priorities.
- Students are adopting the culture of the students around them. Lack of motivation breeds more lack of motivation. Motivation breeds motivation.
- Young people need to be prepared for life, not just prepared to pass my class.
- “You have to see learning through the eyes of your students.” - Hattie
- A lot of people want change... but don’t want to change themselves.

Framework for starting out

- Always start with research.
- Write about your personal insight and practice.
- Give three or four steps for others to take to replicate your work.
- If you’re really trying to reach people, find ways to make their lives better.

Wakelet Collection:

- [Links and Resources](#)