



Project Based Learning

- **Guiding Questions**

1. What is project based learning and why do I need to know about it?
2. What framework(s) can I use to implement project based learning in my school?
3. What community resources does my school have to extend PBL into the community ?
4. What types of community based learning can I access in my community?
5. How do I assess project based learning in a PLP and proficiency based learning environment?

- **Standards/Tags** Student Voice, Goal Setting, Technology, Personalized Learning,
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Explore



30 minutes

Please use the following to help you set the context and understand the concept. Feel free to skim as needed, based on your prior experience.

- **Listen:** [Project Based Learning](#)
- **Read:**
 - [Project-Based Learning: a Primer](#)¹
 - [Smith, Place-Based Education](#)
 - [Motivating project-based learning: Sustaining the doing, supporting](#)²



Be Inspired by Others



30-60 minutes

Now check out how others have integrated project-based learning to enhance their students' learning experiences.

Projects in the classroom

- [Movement and Methods Unit](#)

Projects at the school and community levels

- [The Green Team: Middle School Students and Sustainability](#)
- [PBL Process \(Visual\): The Edge Academy at Essex Middle School](#)

¹ Solomon, G. (2003). Project-Based Learning: a Primer - Penn State - home. Retrieved from http://pennstate.swsd.wikispaces.net/file/view/PBL-Primer-www_techlearning_com.pdf.

² (2013). Motivating project-based learning: Sustaining the doing, supporting ... Retrieved June 3, 2016, from http://www.academia.edu/2487241/Motivating_project-based_learning_Sustaining_the_doing_supporting_the_learning.

- [Projects from other schools integrating democratic education](#)
- [What happens when students create their own curriculum](#)
- [GRASP Ecological Literacy](#)
- [Brainado at Crossett Brook Middle School](#)



Dive



x minutes

For those who want to learn more about PBL

- [Buck Institute's](#) materials on PBL
- [Edutopia's Design Thinking and PBL](#)



Collaborate and Plan



x minutes

In consultation with your team peers and facilitators, prepare for implementation in your school next year. Consider:

What are the necessary action steps to move you or your team forward on your in enacting project based learning in your classroom, at your school and/or in your community?

How can the actions steps contribute to the design of your action research project?

If it's useful for your planning, fill out this table to make a work plan on how to tackle the components.

Project Based Learning	Implementation Plan	Target Date	Who is responsible?
What level will the PBL curriculum be integrated? (Classroom, STEM, Humanities, Team, School)			
What issues will be addressed in the PBL?			
To what extent will students be involved in the choice of issues?			
How will PBL be integrated in your school's standards or proficiency based education?			

Will all units of study be project based? Will they be integrated, interdisciplinary or disciplinary? Or a combination of?			
What are the ways that students will communicate their learning? (Presentations, video, voice over, public forum like city council meeting)			
How will you use surveys, focus groups, student work to evaluate what works and what doesn't?			
How will you communicate with parents about PBL and what resources are you going to provide to all families?			



5 minutes

On your PLP post your table- or other evidence (audio, video, or written) of your learning- and briefly reflect on progress toward your individual or team goals. Please be sure to tag your reflections to one of your goals or the Middle Grades Teacher Standards.

Related Modules

If you want to...	Then visit...
	Authenticity
	Students as Partners
	Community Partnerships
	Service Learning
	Flexible Scheduling
	Physical Learning Spaces
	Intro to Proficiency-Based Learning



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