

Project Based Learning Glossary

Term	Definition	Example	Links to Usage
6 As of PBL	A set of elements high quality PBL Unit: Authenticity, Academic Rigor, Applied Learning, Active Exploration, Adult Connections, and Assessment Practices.	6 A's of PBL Project Design	6 A's of PBL YouTube Playlist 6 A's of PBL Magnify Learning Resource Page
Agency	Student agency is a shift in teaching that requires educators to give voice to students so that their learning and activities are meaningful and relevant to them. This means learning can be driven by their interests and is often self-initiated with support and guidance from the facilitator. Students are given voice and choice in how they learn and sometimes what they learn.	• Voice • Choice • Student focused learning	Article about agency Video about Learner Agency
Artifact	An item created as a component of the project. Often the artifact collected supports evidence of learning.	PBL artifacts include... - Student work samples - Videos - Pictures - documents	PBL Unit Example featuring many student artifacts
Assessment	Assessment is the process by which educators provide learners with opportunities to demonstrate and reflect on learning.	- Summative - Formative - Rubrics	Assessment Practices Video
Authenticity	Work that is being done in the real world	Students meet with business owners from their community to get feedback on a	Authenticity Video Blog about Authentic PBL

		summer business plan that they will actually implement.	Units
Benchmarks	BENCHMARKS are the sub-tasks or building blocks needed to complete the final end product in a PBL Unit. They are a piece of the PBL that every student or group must complete and are often assessed.	- Feedback Days - Field Trips - Assessments - Conferences - Segment Due Dates	Benchmark Video Magnify Learning Benchmark Resources
Collaboration	Within the context of PBL, collaboration is when students work together to achieve a common goal. This can be with their peers, community partners, facilitators, or other participants in the PBL unit.	- Learning Structures - Protocols - Group Work - Team challenges - Feedback Sessions	Collaboration Video Magnify Learning Group Resources
Community Partner	COMMUNITY PARTNERS are the adult professionals, who students interact with in a PBL Unit, and who provide an authentic audience and purpose for students to complete the Project Based Learning Unit. Community partners key aspect of the structure of a PBL Unit. They can be from the local area, state, country, or international community.	- Local Business Owners - School Staff - Other Schools - Park Rangers - Non-Profit Organizations - Field Experts	Community Partner Video Magnify Learning Community Partner Resources
Culminating Event	The final event where students present their findings, answer to the problem, or work. The event where presentations occur or the work is celebrated and reflected upon.	- Presentation Expo - Gallery Walk - Play - Build Day	This End Product video discusses culminating events
Driving Question	A DRIVING QUESTION is the main question of a PBL	How can we, as community helpers,	Driving Question Video

	Unit that guides students throughout the PBL process. Driving Questions are provocative, open-ended, discipline-centered, challenging, and consistent with curricular standards and frameworks.	create and give 3rd graders something to sell at the Farmers Market?	Magnify Learning Driving Question Resources
Employability Skills	EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS (21st Century Skills) are defined as the transferable skills needed by an individual to make them career or workforce ready. Along with good technical understanding and subject knowledge, employers often outline a set of “soft skills” that they want an employee to possess. These are the skills that will equip the employee to carry out their role to the best of their ability.	Synonym: 21st Century Skills - Technology Use - Interpersonal skills - Communication Skills - Critical Thinking	Employability Skill Video Magnify Learning Employability Skill Resources
End Product	An END PRODUCT is a student-created final product, often a culminating event, that requires students to demonstrate mastery of the core content and skills learned in the Project Based Learning Unit.	- How to video - Self-published book - Persuasive Pamphlet - Display of Work or Content - Museum Exhibit	End Product Video Magnify Learning End Product Resources
Entry Document	An Entry Document is used to support the entry event. This is a tool, such as a letter, video, or slideshow that frames the problem and is utilized by the facilitator to launch the PBL unit.	- Letter - Video - Slideshow Presentation - Poster	Magnify Learning's Entry Letter for PBL Advanced See "Examples" under Entry Events
Entry Event	ENTRY EVENTS help engage and inspire students to dive into a PBL	- Field Trip - Community Partner visit	Entry Event Video

	Unit. They provide a clear and authentic reason to do the PBL while also serving as a "hook" to capture students' interest.	- Debate - Article or Book - Video	Magnify Learning Entry Event Resources
Facilitator	A facilitator steps back from disseminating knowledge and instead focuses on guiding students through the learning process. They pose thoughtful questions, encourage discussions, and coach students through taking responsibility for their own learning.	Video Example	Facilitator of Learning Video Facilitator vs. Teacher Article
Feedback & Revision	FEEDBACK and REVISION is the process of providing constructive, thoughtful responses to work completed in order for it to be improved upon. Feedback and Revision are a core component of PBL and are completed throughout the entire process. Feedback and Revision most often happen in the Benchmarks of a PBL. In PBL feedback is provided by both peers and facilitators through the use of protocols and the rubric.	-Community Partner panel - Peer Feedback - Teacher Conference	Video Example Magnify Learning Feedback Resources
Formative Assessment	Many assessment forms that are low-stakes and used throughout the learning process to evaluate and adjust the learning process.	- Conference - Quick Check - Exit Ticket - Quizzes - Polls	Magnify Learning Assessment Articles
Group Agreement (Group Contract)	A GROUP CONTRACT is a contractual document created and agreed upon	Student Contract Example K-8	Magnify Learning Group Contract

	by group members within a PBL Unit. This document contains norms and agreements and governs how group members will interact over the course of the PBL Unit.		
Growth Mindset	Growth mindset connects to Project Based Learning because the PBL process requires a shift in thinking, learning, and understanding. In PBL, not “yet” is an ongoing state. Teachers are learning how to apply a new way of teaching and give over control. Students are building and practicing new skills. They are asking questions and trying to find solutions to problems. They are getting and giving feedback and making revisions. A growth mindset in both educators and students is the fertilizer for PBL to take root and transform learning.	Example of Fixed vs. Growth Mindset	Magnify Learning Growth Mindset Resources
Inquiry	INQUIRY is the process of deeply exploring and asking questions to better understand a problem, topic, issue, concern, or even area of interest. Inquiry is meant to be embedded throughout a PBL Unit and ties directly to active exploration. Within the PBL framework students have a driving question that ties to an authentic problem. This questions guides the inquiry process as students research and investigate solutions to a problem.	A deeper look at Inquiry in classrooms	Inquiry Based Learning in PBL video Magnify Learning Inquiry Resources

Know & Need to Know List	KNOW - Skills, content, and background knowledge students already know about the topic of the Project Based Learning Unit and the problem being addressed. NEED TO KNOW (NTK) - Skills, content, and logistical information required to complete a Project Based Learning Unit. Students identify NTK's in the form of questions. The answers to the questions are unknown to the students and require teacher support in acquiring and mastering.	Know & Need to Know Examples	Magnify Learning Know and Need to Know Resources
Learning Structures (Protocols)	Learning Structures are tools for bringing organization and direction to conversations so that all voices have an opportunity to be heard. Protocols are “structured processes to support focused and productive conversations, build collective understanding, and drive school improvement”*. Learning Structures provide necessary support for collaboration, feedback, and Project Based Learning work to happen.	- Protocols - Cooperative Learning Structures - Team Challenges - Community Builders	Magnify Learning Protocol Resources
Norms	Norms are used in partner, group, team, or classroom settings. Norms layout common expectations around how all individuals are to treat each other, materials, and the learning environment.	- Classroom norms - Classroom Contracts - Social Contracts - Group Contracts - Group Norms	Building Positive PBL Classroom Culture Blog Post

Problem Statement	A Problem Statement is a sentence that lays out the real-world and relevant problem that is the foundation of the PBL unit. Typically, the Problem Statement is used by facilitators to help them plan and harness resources for the PBL unit.	According to the Center for Disease Control, students who are bullied are more likely to experience low self-esteem and isolation, perform poorly in school, and have a negative view of school.	Driving Question Video Magnify Learning Driving Question Resources
Project Launch	A Project Launch encompasses many pieces of entering students into the PBL unit. Often over one day or two days, the Project Launch describes the process of taking students through the Entry Event, Driving Question, and Know/Need to Know process.	- Entry Event - Driving Question Presentation or Creation - Know & Need to Know Creation	Look at examples under the items from a Project Launch.
Reflection	REFLECTION is the process of taking time to evaluate your work and performance to see what needs to be improved or what has been gained in the learning process. Reflection is a necessary aspect of every PBL Unit. While it most often shows up at the completion of a PBL Unit it is best if it is embedded throughout the entire process. Within the PBL framework both students and facilitators reflect often and through the use of protocols to guide the process.	- Exit Ticket - Reflection Protocols - Chalk Talk - Good Questions	Reflection Example in PBL Magnify Learning Reflection Resources
Relevancy	Relevance refers to the real world connection students make with a topic that applies to their cultural experiences, personal	- Community Partner connections - Real World Problems	Example video of planning relevant real world connection

	interests, or aspirations, and current events. A quality PBL unit will bridge the real world with topics that are relevant to students.	from Current Event news	opportunities for students
Rubric	A RUBRIC is a tool used to measure a product against a set of defined standards and criteria. Rubrics can be used to communicate a facilitator's expectations for any PBL products or outcomes.	Elementary Examples Middle School Examples High School Examples	Magnify Learning Rubric Resources
Scaffolding	SCAFFOLDING consists of lessons, workshops, activities, and resources that help students master the content and skills needed to complete a Project Based Learning Unit. They are the pieces of a PBL that support students in successfully completing benchmarks.	- Lessons - Workshops - Quizzes - Conferences - Activities - STEM Challenges - Field Trips - Revision	Scaffolding Video Example Magnify Learning Scaffolding Resources
Social Emotional Learning (SEL)	Social Emotional Learning within the context of PBL is attending to the social and emotional well-being of students through culture development, self-awareness, growth mindset, and many more skills.	- Self-awareness - Self-control - Interpersonal skills - Growth mindset - Classroom Culture - Team Building - Classroom Building	Growth Mindset Building PBL Culture
Solution Minded			
Standards	Standards are the core pieces of content knowledge and skills your students are required to learn in your content area. The foundation of every PBL Unit are standards and skills.	Common Core NGSS State Specific Standards	Magnify Learning Video Magnify Learning Resources
Student Choice	Choice refers to students'	- Voting	Magnify

	ability and opportunity to be active decision makers in how a classroom operates as well as to pursue their own interests and solutions through the course of each PBL Unit.	- Choice Boards - Flexible seating spaces	Learning Voice & Choice Resources Example Voice & Choice Video
Student Voice	Voice refers to students' ability and opportunity to have a say in the decision making processes that govern the classroom as well as the solutions to the problems addressed in the PBL Unit.	- Voting - Multiple ways to share thoughts or answers - Ask for & use student feedback in classroom	Magnify Learning Voice & Choice Resources Example Voice & Choice Video
Workshop	Workshops are small or whole group lessons that address specific PBL unit Need to Knows, standards, skills, or content. These are typically needed for students to be successful in their work. Workshops can be hosted by classroom facilitators, community partners, peers, or other relevant individuals.	- Whole group lesson about how to use Canva - Small group lesson after a quiz about a concept many struggled with - When utilizing group roles, presenters from the group meet with a sales representative from the community in a workshop about making a pitch	