

Title of Session: Constructivism: Project Based Learning in the Classroom

Moderator: BJ Berquist

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Room: After School Online Room

PeggyBB: I assume the discussion is on Constructivism? If so, great!

BJB2 nods to Peggy

PeggyBB: I'm back. I have just registered in a course on communication and the term they use for a live discussion is 'synchronous' and I am supposed to state what I did and how I liked it. Two birds..one stone...and I haven't even started the course:)

BJB2 chuckles...very efficient, Peggy!

PeggyBB: I assume that an integrated approach to teaching is inherent in project-based Constructivist learning? BJB, what do you know about it?

BJB2: I know enough to have the basic idea, Peggy...

BJB2: there is another PBL group that meets here in Tapped In...

BJB2: go to the calendar again and click on Feb 17

BJB2: This is Elizabeth's first group meeting, but Linda Ullah has been doing her session for several years

BJB2: she'll have just gotten back from Bangladesh when she does her GPBL session

PeggyBB: Subtle, a little evasive. You are probably very knowledgeable or you wouldn't be desiring to know/learn more--can't have one without the other...that's what I think about learning/learners

BJB2 smiles. I always learn from all the events that are held here, Peggy!

PeggyBB: I like your attitude. I can almost imagine, even see, your smile. I am assuming that participants are supposed to be quite impersonal and objective. Am I right?

BJB2: heck no! A good educator has PASSION!!

BJB2: Peggy, click on the ONLINE tab to the left of this chat window

PeggyBB: A VERY ROBUST BELLY LAUGH!!!! I agree! PASSION and WONDER!

BJB2: and then click one time on BJB and the green i at the bottom of the frame

PeggyBB: ALL RIGHT, I'M OVERWHELMED AND IMPRESSED!!! I'm looking forward to this Tapped In experience. I love art and could easily begin to BABBLE about now. There is so much information in what you have showed me. Thank you. I hope that I will be able to meet you here quite frequently in the future.

PeggyBB: I am waiting for the discussion at six. Are you joining in, BJB? I will return to your website and peruse it further. I can think of so many questions already! I always say what I mean so here goes: I believe that you probably are a loving, affirming and professional instructor/teacher where you work (Correctional School for adolescents?) . Am I right?

BJB2 nods solemnly

BJB2: and yes, I'll be here for the PBL discussion

PeggyBB: Why solemnly? Your work and worth have dignity. Is it challenging and sometimes thankless?

BJB2: frequently. One has to learn to measure success in very tiny increments

BJB2 . o O (it's NEVER boring though)

PeggyBB: Wisdom has a very high price. Every tiny increment can sometimes mean a quantum leap to the students and a very precious diamond/snowflake image for you to carry. I refer to the snowflake because of its delicate and transitory beauty; your seemingly miniscule efforts may seem like that...but, oh, how powerful! (But not easy.)

BJB2 smiles. Interesting that you should choose the snowflake metaphor...

BJB2: I recently finished a lesson on Snowflake Bentley...The video is pretty interesting

BJB2: I had the kids make anatomically correct snowflakes

SusanPy joined the room.

BJB2: welcome, Susan. Are you here to participate in the PBL discussion?

PeggyBB: I know. It seems like a paradox. Who or what is 'Snowflake Bentley? And did the students enjoy the assignment? How old are they?

SusanPy: Hello

SusanPy: yes

BJB2: my students are 11-18 years old, Peggy

SusanPy: you have a wide range

BJB2: Snowflake Bentley is the first person to photograph snowflakes and prove that each flake is different

PeggyBB: Hello, Susan. I'm new. I didn't mean to interrupt. BJB, I enjoy that age range. They are 'raw and generous' when they feel safe, far more honest than adults with their facades.

BJB2 agrees

SusanPy: I am new too

LisaHS joined the room.

BJB2: we're waiting for Elizabeth, Susan. I spoke to her earlier today so I know she's planning on being here

PeggyBB: I didn't know that about Snowflake Bentley! I am going to investigate. Where could I get the video? Welcome, Susan. I'm trying to talk to both of you and I am probably not following the correct protocol.

BJB2: Hi, Lisa. Welcome

LisaHS: Thank you!

BJB2: you're doing fine, Peggy

SusanPy: that's ok, Peggy

BJB2: <http://snowflakebentley.com/>

BJB2: click on that url, Peggy

SusanPy: may I ask what was the assignment - I must have missed the very beginning

BJB2: Susan, this is the Project Based Learning discussion: Constructivism

BJB2: but we haven't started yet

PeggyBB: Typos, like puns, are really not the lowest form of humour. I have invented a universe of new languages merely by not placing my fingers on f and j!

LisaHS: LOL!

PeggyBB: What url? HELP!

BJB2 laughs. We try not to worry too much about typos...in the heat of the discussion, it's more important what you say, not how you say it

BJB2: <http://snowflakebentley.com/>

BJB2: that is the Wilson Snowflake Bentley site

SusanPy: Thanks for the url - I have opened it and will take a look later

LisaHS: It looks great

BJB2: if you have a pop up blocker, hold down your ctrl key as you click on the hyperlink

BJB2: while we wait for Elizabeth, I can give you a couple hints to help you get more out of the discussion

BJB2: go to the ACTIONS menu in the top right of this chat window

BJB2: then click on DETACH

BJB2: that will make your chat window larger and easier to follow

BJB2: you can also make the font larger

LisaHS: Got it!

BJB2: you also know about transcripts?

LisaHS: They come after we sign off?

BJB2: when you log out a transcript will be automatically emailed to you...right, Lisa

BJB2: so you don't have to worry about copying urls or taking notes

LisaHS: That's great for links and other references that scroll by too fast

LisaHS: and new vocabulary Peggy teaches us

SusanPy: lol

LisaHS wink

BJB2 chuckles

BJB2: how familiar are you all with PBL?

PeggyBB: New vocabulary? Thank you. What does 'lol' mean, Susan?

BJB2 wonders if anyone has participated in Linda Ullah's GPBL?

BJB2: lol=laugh out loud

SusanPy: laugh out loud

LisaHS: I watched the video clips of Ms Battle and was inspired

SusanPy: just a little familiar with PBL

LisaHS: Not me

SusanPy: I think an online class I did links to this

LisaHS: I am participating with Leni Donlan's Westward Ho Oregon Trail virtual trip and really found it worthwhile

PeggyBB: I am not familiar with any of this and now I want to know everything and the text is moving too fast. Linda Ullah GPBL? Who is Ms. Battle? Some people would think it was me or I or moi! I mean no disrespect. Thank heavens for transcripts.

LisaHS: so now I am looking for more real life opportunities for learning

SusanPy: don't feel bad Peggy - me too

PeggyBB: Westward Ho Oregon Trail?

LisaHS: Students from all over the USA (about 400) are participating and experiencing it online and in the classroom

BJB2: cool about the Westward Ho participation, Lisa.

PeggyBB: Thank you for your encouragement, Susan. I'm very excited about this experience.

SusanPy: me too

SusanPy: what grade are these students Lisa?

LisaHS: The participants are grades 2-8, I believe. These types of things motivate the kids because they make decisions that change the outcome of the experience.

PeggyBB: Bottom line: a community is about communication, not bricks and mortar and proximity--and silence...I'm waxing profound on myself as I wait. What's the website for the Westward Ho?

BJB2: Leni also leads a monthly Library of Congress Learning Page chat in Tapped In...

LisaHS: <http://www.cyberbee.com/wwho/>

BJB2: she's showing Civil War resources this month

LisaHS: What a resource she is! (And all you Tapped In folks!)

PeggyBB: Thank you, Lisa.

BJB2: here is Linda Ullah's GPBL page <http://www.garlic.com/~lullah/gpbl/>

LisaHS: hmmmmmmm

PeggyBB: Grades 2-8--wonderful ages--still childlike and yet insightful. Thank you for Linda Ullah's GPBL.

SusanPy: what is Linda doing at that website

BJB2: Linda leads another PBL discussion in Tapped In

SusanPy: ok

BJB2: her chats are more for global resources

LisaHS: Should we check the calendar for these things or do we get a notification by email?

BJB2: at this point you need to check the calendar, Lisa. Linda's next session is Feb 17

LisaHS: OK

PeggyBB: I am assuming that we novices should be perusing Tapped In in order to glean what we can, BJB. Lisa, you just read my mind...my typing is sooooo slow...

BJB2: you'll find that typing speed increases in relation to the amount of time you spend here, Peggy

LisaHS: I'm new too

BJB2: we all start out as newbies.

PeggyBB: Typing fatigue has set in. Is that like metal fatigue? HaHa.

BJB2: and we each learn in our own way

SusanPy: lol

BJB2 hands Peggy some finger oil

LisaHS: I didn't want to wait another year for Westward Ho to come back around, so I am glad to know there are other projects and trips like this in the works

PeggyBB: Finger oil? How about some axon and dendrite grease?

BJB2: Leni has access to some very special resources, Lisa.

SusanPy: lol - I could use some too sometimes

BJB2: that works too, Peggy

SusanPy: Leni does all her stuff thru Tapped In?

PeggyBB: Where do I find Leni's resources?

LisaHS: The online meetings take place thru Tapped In. Visit that site later and enjoy reading all you see there.

LisaHS: Please BJB elaborate on her other resources

BJB2: Peggy, Leni's resources are at the Library of Congress!

BJB2: tell you what....click on www.tappedin.org/transcripts

LisaHS: Now?

BJB2: and look up some of Leni's archived transcripts

BJB2 nods to Lisa

JulianaG joined the room.

BJB2: Hi, Juliana. Welcome

BJB2: you can also look up some of Linda Ullah's archived scripts

BJB2: Juliana, are you here for Project Based Learning?

LisaHS: So this would be under the Social Science link:

BJB2 nods to Lisa

LisaHS: That was meant to be a question

PeggyBB: I can access the Library of Congress? Don't mind me. When I wrote novice, I should have written NOVICE. I am getting INSPIRED. Thank you, everybody!

JulianaG: Yes. sorry for the delay, it is

LisaHS giggles

JulianaG: my first time here

SusanPy: us too

LisaHS: We're all green :grin

BJB2: Peggy, Tapped In has an international membership of 23,500

LisaHS: Wow!

BJB2: there are many wonderful resources here...

BJB2: the most valuable of which are the members!

BJB2: all the events that are on the calendar are led by volunteer leaders in education

PeggyBB: Another 'newbie,' welcome Juliana. I like your name. My second name is Bernice. My first one is Margaret. Put them together and I sound like I should be docking.

BJB2 laughs

LisaHS giggle

BJB2: only if you put HMS in front

LisaHS: You are on a roll

SusanPy: lol

BJB2: I suspect that Elizabeth must be having some tech problems and that is why she's not here...

BJB2: I know she's scheduled a guest speaker for next Friday

LisaHS: Our whole meeting got cut off this morning in the middle of it

BJB2: hopefully, she'll be able to log in then and catch everyone up on what she plans for the group

BJB2 nods to Lisa. Tech happens, as you all know

BJB2 . o O (and life happens too...especially if you have young children, you can't always meet online obligations)

PeggyBB: I'm disturbing the peace with my laughing...very good, HMS. Welcome, Emily. I'm new like many of us.

SusanPy: you all are great:)

LisaHS: What's the Tapped In Festival I see referenced on the transcript page?

DavidWe joined the room.

BJB2 waves hi to David

DavidWe: Hi, BJ

BJB2: Lisa, the Festival is a 12 hour marathon of presentations in Tapped In...lots of fun

BJB2 . o O (takes us about a year to recover)

LisaHS: And sore fingers

DavidWe agrees that it IS a lot of fun

PeggyBB: Susan, I was just thinking that! You know how some people imagine us merely being spirits and communicating sort of like this...I know, I sound spooky and metaphysical, but it is true. I don't need to see any of you to enjoy your company.

SusanPy: I must agree

DavidWe: It's a LOT of fun to meet people in real life, after getting to know them in TI

JulianaG: Me too.

BJB2: that is what drew me to Tapped In originally...the people are very warm and welcoming

LisaHS: Bad hair days don't matter

DavidWe smiles

SusanPy: lol Lisa

PeggyBB: Welcome, David. So here we are sitting and waiting and chatting and no paper airplanes....

DavidWe: Thanks, Peggy

DavidWe: Well, since I'm the only boy...I won't throw any your way

LisaHS: It's great to share ideas with so many creative people. As teachers, why should we all reinvent the wheel? It's great to learn from others' hard knocks and also successes

DavidWe: Welcome to Tapped In, by the way, Peggy

BJB2 taps her toe....now you promised to behave, David

DavidWe realizes that, yet AGAIN, he's the only male...

LisaHS: Admit it, You are outnumbered

DavidWe: I admit it. Seriously!

DavidWe . o O (always outnumbered, always outgunned)

SusanPy: Lisa - I agree - we don't need to reinvent

LisaHS: Quality, not quantity

PeggyBB: I once threw a paper airplane just as my Principal teacher walked in. It skimmed in front of him with a SWISH!!! "Who did that?" He looked directly at me.

DavidWe . o O (and...?)

LisaHS: And you with an innocent face

LisaHS: pointed right to BJ, right?

BJB2 nods solemnly

SusanPy laughs

BJB2: David, I thought you were going to share some PBL resources?

DavidWe: I'm impressed with you folks logging in on Friday evening

PeggyBB: I had to sit with my hands behind my back at my desk for thirty minutes but I kept making rude noises. You don't want to know. He couldn't prove who was doing the auditory effects.

DavidWe likes the idea of Problem/Project Based Learning

SusanPy: the online class I took taught you how to design a "lesson" around a central real life theme and then it incorporates many objectives and areas

PeggyBB: Why do you like it, David? Because it resembles how we handle many problems/challenges in the real world of which education is supposedly a part?

BJB2: David's expertise is Math

DavidWe: Yes, Peggy. Exactly

DavidWe was a chemistry major in college

LisaHS: I like that "supposedly" part

BJB2 . o O (oops...and science)

DavidWe: We were allowed, in high school, to do videotape "reports" instead of papers on topics like the Chinese Revolution.

LisaHS: In costume?

DavidWe: We had a huge amount of fun creating the videotapes, but also researching the history so that "Dan Rather" could interview "Teddy Roosevelt" in a gymnasium while he was working out and ask him appropriate questions about the Spanish -American War

DavidWe: We did our best with the costumes, Lisa

PeggyBB: And I bet that you were involved, both creative and analytical, whole as a learner. What a novelty? (I'm really not this cynical.)

LisaHS: I just saw a photo of a bunch of democrats posing with the statue of FDR yesterday!

DavidWe: We learned the history (I believe) we learned a lot about technology and we also thought about how it would be presented, since "handing in" the project involved showing it to the class

LisaHS: It's about time you came out of your shell

SusanPy: David - that kind of follows the class I mentioned

DavidWe listens

SusanPy: students would have to do research and some basic skill building activities to tie things together

DavidWe nods

PeggyBB: Education as experience and sharing...sounds better all the time. Remember the days of lectures and writing notes off the board and NEVER interpreting Wordsworth for yourself because his poetry only had ONE meaning?

LisaHS: That sure beats a term paper or report

LisaHS: No one ever gave a rip if WE were having any fun or not

LisaHS: But the secret is that when the Teachers are having fun, the students do too. And vice versa

SusanPy: one project had students being private investigators - the whole thing covered science, ss, lang arts, technology, presenting

JulianaG: I think Peggy means that the project based learning means something that is meaningful to us

DavidWe: Our best endeavor, in my opinion, was two episodes of Biological Jeopardy. We were allowed to show it to the biology classes in 10th grade before the Bio Achievement test at the end of the year. We managed to get one question pretty much word for word that appeared on the Achievement test

PeggyBB: The whole point is: learning as concentration and involvement is fun DESPITE some teachers

JulianaG: Despitê?

SusanPy: is the key here also that kids work together more?

JulianaG: I think teachers are involved too.

BJB2: yes, Susan

LisaHS: And another aspect is that kids will produce something that not only the teacher will see, but also their peers.

BJB2: WebQuests are a good form of PBL

LisaHS: Any examples?

BJB2: . o O (Bernie Dodge does a monthly webquest discussion here)

SusanPy: I have heard a little about webquests - not much experience

BJB2: try www.webquest.org

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: That's it!

JulianaG: So...

DavidWe: Good to see you all in Tapped In this evening...I'm off for a bit...

DavidWe hugs Bj

BJB2: there are LOTS of webquests...but not very many effective ones

PeggyBB: Mais oui. I am stating my faith in students who do not have imaginative teachers. Some of them still get involved, inspiring said teacher(s). Yes, of course, many more teachers are involved but even more changes are essential. I mean why are we here?

BJB2 hugs David warmly

DavidWe: Goodnight folks

DavidWe waves bye

DavidWe: Ciao

LisaHS: I'll definitely look into this

JulianaG: To be inspiring teachers

PeggyBB: Good bye...thanks everyone...supper.

SusanPy: later Peggy

LisaHS: Well, will we try again next Friday, or reschedule another time to be announced?

BJB2: well, sorry our discussion leader wasn't able to join us...but I hope you got something from the discussion

BJB2: Lisa, Elizabeth has next Friday on the calendar

SusanPy: I enjoyed my time

BJB2 crosses her fingers that she'll be able to log in

LisaHS: Me too. And between tonight and next Friday, we have all the Mardi Gras Madness here in New Orleans

BJB2: sometimes these casual chats are nice to have too...we don't often get an opportunity to do that.

BJB2: oh, that sounds like fun, Lisa!

SusanPy: thanks to all - Lisa - have fun

LisaHS: Of course by then, all the revelers will have their Ash Wednesday faces on

LisaHS: Don't let them fool you

BJB2 waves goodnight

LisaHS hugs

SusanPy: goodnight all

SusanPy hugs

JulianaG: good night

BJB2 hugs Susan

BJB2 smiles...love those hugs!