

**Title of Session:** Global Project Based Learning

**Moderator:** Linda Ullah

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Room: After School Online Room

**LindaU:** Hi, I'm Linda Ullah. I'm teacher in residence at Foothill College-a community college in Los Altos Hills, CA. We run a teacher oriented technology staff development program called LINC (Learning in New Media Classrooms.) One of our online classes, and my passion is Global Project Based Learning. Please introduce yourselves and include what does Global Project Based Learning mean to you.

**BJ:** I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania. GPBL means that we need more than ever to help our children become more culturally aware.

**JasonFr:** My name is Jay Frankel....I am in the educational technology M.A. program at Azusa Pacific University. When thinking about GPBL, I tend to think about participating in projects and learning using a variety of technology resources and incorporating information and users, not just from my immediate area, but from all over

**MonijitK:** My name is Moni K. and I am a preservice teacher in Houston Texas. I am just now learning about GPBL and from what I read I think it is a great project and it is really refreshing to know things like this exist..we didn't have much like this when I was young..or weren't exposed to it at least. its awesome to see how much education has changed and grown is such a positive globally aware way....i have a cousin that lives in Los Altos Hills btw...sorry for the irrelevance.

**RachelLS:** Hello, I'm Rachel Stephens, and I teach Spanish & French in Leander ISD, outside of Austin TX. I've taught for 6 years, five in high school, and this is my first year to teach grades 6-8. As a foreign language teacher, GPBL helps me expose students to other cultures

**PamNi:** Hi my name is Pam Nicholson and I am a technology facilitator for Region V TLTC in Louisiana. I train teachers in integrating technology in their classroom. GPBL means that meaningful projects are conducted and carried by the students that extend beyond the physical walls of the classroom.

**HaileyR** joined the room.

**SusanR:** K to 8 Occasional Teacher from Canada..An instructional method that uses real-life projects to motivate learning and provide learning experiences

**BrendaHo:** I am Brenda Hobdy. I am responsible for teaching teachers in 8 parishes to integrate technology into their classes. Yes, I am from Louisiana. GPBL means that students get to participate in real life situations.

**LindaU:** Hi Hailey, welcome, we are doing introductions. be sure to include what Global PBL means to you.

**LakimberIJ:** My name is Kimberly and I was a science teacher in Georgia. Now I am a grad student at Univ. of Wis. GPBL means having a worldwide connection?

**JeffC** joined the room.

**YazidR** joined the room.

**LindaU:** Hi Jeff. we are introducing ourselves... Please do so and include what global PBL means to you.

**LindaU:** Hi Yazid... Please introduce yourself and let us know what global pbl means to you.

**HaileyR:** My name is Hailey, I work with the Louisiana Department of Education in Instructional Technology. GPBL means bringing a real world aspect into learning activities.

**JeffC:** Hi... I'm Jeff Cooper... for the past three years I was Education Technology Specialist at the College of Education at Pacific University... recently laid off due to budget cuts. Global PBL is an ideal of mine that is vastly underutilized in today's K-20+ classrooms.

**MonijitK:** hello everyone

**LindaU:** This is a great group. We are spread out all over the U.S. If you were to start planning a project for students in the schools you are associated with to work with students in each of your schools, how would you begin? What would you do first?

**JasonFr:** I would start with newsgroups and try to branch off of them

**JasonFr:** or usenet

**JeffC:** 1) Get the students email accounts at <http://www.epals.com> 2) Get people registered at <http://www.takingitglobal.org> 3) Check out the ongoing projects at Newsday <http://www.gsn.org/project/newsday/> 4) Register students here at Tapped In and get things started.

**LindaU:** Tell me how you would use this tool?

**RachelLS:** I would like to have e-pals for students learning foreign language

**MonijitK:** discussion boards such as e classrooms are really easy to use and available to every one..it's kind of like Tapped In but not live...it's postings..

**YazidR:** Hi

**LindaU:** Great sites, Jeff. shall we give people a chance to explore after they give there ideas?

**MonijitK:** email is another good idea but students in my district aren't given email access at school

**LindaU:** Yazid, Please introduce yourself and tell us what global pbl means to you?

**JeffC:** Absolutely... I have to run and make dinner... but will be back periodically.

**BrendaHo:** I would definitely have to go thru a lot of red tape to get emails for students so that would be what I would do first.

**LakimberIJ:** I would communicate through e-mail. But you really have to careful with this

**YazidR:** I teach French in elementary school.

**JasonFr:** we are not allowed to have students use emails.....I teach 5th grade in GA

**RachelLS:** if not email, regular snail mail would be great for my students since I don't know if they remember how to write a regular letter. just the chance to practice what they are learning with students from other schools would be terrific

**LindaU:** Brenda.. do you know about gaggle (<http://www.gaggle.net>. It provides free, safe email (teacher monitored) for students>

**PamNi:** I am like Brenda with regards to the red tape. Do other teachers have suggestions for alternatives to creating student emails.

**YazidR:** I love to use technology when teaching French but for now I am collecting practical ideas that work for me and for my students.

**BrendaHo:** Yes but that too would require red tape. The district blocks everything.

**LindaU:** I mentioned gaggle. Another tool is Think.com... ( <http://www.think.com> )

**MonijitK:** I used to have a pen pal in Japan in fifth grade and our class exchanged hand written letters thru mail and sent little mementos to each other such as coins and paper dolls etc... I know that is not so tech. based..but I think it is good to have something tangible from the person u are talking with..and to get a taste of where they are from...for young children I think it is important to be able to see the similarities and differences and to feel them

**HaileyR:** Instead of student to student collaboration, you could have students communicate online with SME's for safety purposes.

**MonijitK:** what is snail mail

**RachelLS:** written mail delivered by the post office

**YazidR:** Students in my school are not provided with emails accounts. What can I do to get them safe emails?

**LakimberIJ** left the room (signed off).

**LindaU:** Let's take a look at ePals <http://www.epals.com>. Just click on the blue link

**EthelC** joined the room.

**JasonFr:** yahoo can give email accounts

**YazidR:** snail mail is regular mail I believe because it is too slow comparing to email.

**MonijitK:** haha i see

**LindaU:** Hi Ethel. We are looking at ePals <http://www.epals.com> and discussing how we might get started with a global project

**JeffC:** epals or gaggle.net are the two safe solutions for student emails... they are filterable... no spam... lots of features...

**LindaU:** Jason, Yahoo is free, but not necessarily protected.

**MonijitK:** but I tend to like it better when dealing with personal things and when trying to get to relate to someone which is my impression of this project

**YazidR:** I understand

**LindaU:** Look at the ePals Projects link.

**EthelC:** Hi! I'm very new at this, so, I might ask some silly questions.

**JasonFr:** that's a good point

**YazidR:** Did anyone hear about KIDBIZ?

**JasonFr:** yes

**SusanR . o O** ( I would look at the curriculum expectations first and proceed from there... <http://k12science.ati.stevens-tech.edu/collabprojs.html> )

**MonijitK:** I think we should look at the site before there is some online yelling!

**LindaU:** Notice that ePals is organized by grade level.

**SusanR:** ..has some great projects

**YazidR:** Can I get more information about it?

**JasonFr:** good place to start, however often GPBL is not in the curriculums and standards

**JasonFr:** is that a college?

**LindaU:** true Jason.. global pbl is not in the content standards, but... when you plan curriculum you can identify which standards your project will meet.

**LindaU:** any thoughts about epals.

**JasonFr:** I see.....I thought you meant for the project to be in the standards

**MonijitK:** I'm confused

**YazidR:** Me too

**RachelLS:** these projects look great

**MonijitK:** is it just a chat room

**LindaU:** ePals? no

**YazidR:** Give us some ideas about the global learning

**EthelC:** I don't know what that is. ???

**RachelLS:** epals joins teachers & students from different cultures to collaborate on projects that they design & implement...I'm looking at a clothes exchange between different countries right now

**EthelC:** Oh... sounds interesting. Tell me a bit more...

**RachelLS:** other projects include email/regular mail correspondence, comparisons of teen cultures, etc..

**LindaU:** exactly. take a look at some of the projects.. Ethel the URL is <http://www.epals.com> just click on the link, then click on the Projects link in the ePals menu.

**RachelLS:** a teacher in Denmark is begging for a US teacher to work on a project comparing teen cultures if anyone is interested

**EthelC:** What countries are we talking about for example.

**LindaU:** ePals has a variety of countries to choose from.

**EthelC:** Thanks for the URI!

**RachelLS:** Denmark, Brazil, South Korea, Chile, USA, China, Ecuador, Israel

**RachelLS:** and more

**EthelC:** Wow!

**YazidR:** Any country from Africa?

**LindaU:** Rachel found a great project example. Did anyone find one you would like to share?

**EthelC:** How about Australia?

**LindaU:** Yazid, maybe.. try explore ePals to see.

**YazidR:** I will

**EthelC:** The reason I mentioned AU is because I'm married to an Ozzie.

**YazidR:** I use to have epals from Belgium but it didn't last that long

**LindaU:** Yazid... Why didn't it last?

**MonijitK:** well I am going to be teaching to fifth grade and I really like the unsung heroes

**LindaU:** There are both great reasons to do global projects (compelling reasons) but there are difficulties to consider.

**MonijitK:** wow I really like this site

**YazidR:** students in the school didn't have access to Internet all the time like we do here

**LindaU:** You all have given some of the compelling reasons in your definitions of global pbl.

**RachelLS:** technology limitations are a definite disadvantage

**LindaU:** Yazid. This is an issue for some countries. We are ahead of the curve when it comes to Internet access.

**YazidR:** You are right

**YazidR:** We are blessed

**BrendaHo:** Something that we often take for granted.

**LindaU:** Here are my compelling reasons to try a global project. I'll give you the down side in a few minutes, but first let's look at why you might try doing a project with a school in another country.

**EthelC:** Going to bid you all farewell; I will investigate ePals so that I will become more informed. Your discussion is somewhat out of my realm. Sorry for the intrusion. Ta to all! : such ignorance...

**YazidR:** I think our students need to understand that

**YazidR:** so that they will be at least thankful

**LindaU:** Take a look at: <http://www.garlic.com/~lullah/gpbl/topic2/t2read1.html>

**LindaU:** and read the list or advantages that Standley and Hutchings list.

**LindaU:** How does this compare with your thoughts?

**MonijitK:** I think it pretty much touched on everything i was thinking

**YazidR:** Can we adapt that to elementary students?

**PamNi:** I think it articulates everything and more that we thought of.

**LindaU:** yes... I did a project when I taught elementary school. I had 3rd-6th graders working with student in a high school in Sao Paulo, Brazil

**RachelLS:** one of the epals projects is for grades 3-5

**YazidR:** GREAT!!!!!!!!!!

**JeffC:** btw... if people haven't already done so... they might want to go "Actions" -- Detach--- then maximize the window so they can see the scrolling text easier

**LindaU:** It can be adapted to any grade level.

**LindaU:** and any curriculum standards.

**RachelLS:** I agreed with the advantages & disadvantages...mentioned many i hadn't thought of

**LindaU:** Yazid touched on the technology (digital divide) down side. What are other downside issues?

**PamNi:** We have several teachers in our area that have made an e-pal project involving the adventures of Flat Stanley and these are elementary teachers around grade 4-5.

**BrendaHo:** I like the part about building bridges between culture groups.

**LindaU:** Yes, the Flat Stanley project is a great one!

**LindaU:** You can find some disadvantages at:

<http://www.garlic.com/~lullah/gpbl/topic2/t2read2.html>

**LindaU:** I like the building bridges part too...

**MonijitK:** yea I learned about Flat Stanley a few weeks ago in second grade that is an excellent idea and can be adapted for higher grade levels

**YazidR:** You mentioned earlier a project about clothes in different clothes.

**LindaU:** take a look at the disadvantages. How might your teaching situation be affected by the disadvantages?

**PamNi:** MonijitK...We had a middle school teacher develop a unit, the "Adventures of T-flat Boudreaux" in honor of our Cajun heritage and Flat Stanley.

**MonijitK:** haha thats cool

**YazidR:** Time was one of my problem when dealing with my epals in Belgium

**RachelLS:** dealing with teenage students, xenophobia & lack of cultural sensitivity is a major disadvantage. as a teacher, discussion with my students (much discussion!) could help to alleviate some of that before beginning the project

**MonijitK:** this is so exciting to me because as a non Hispanic minority in Texas I didn't feel like I was represented at all in school ever! there are so many wonderful ideas now that I will try to incorporate

**LindaU:** Here is a site I want you all to look at:

<http://www.menzelphoto.com/gallery/mw.htm>

**LindaU:** How could you use this with your students to launch a global project?

**BrendaHo:** I agree with Rachel and feel that both teachers will need to convey this to students.

**LindaU:** Could this site be used in dealing with Rachel's issues?

**LindaU:** Thoughts about the Peter Menzel site?

**RachelLS:** i think you could ask students to find similarities between themselves & the people/places in the pictures...then look at differences

**RachelLS:** people tend to be more comfortable when they find they have something in common

**LindaU:** some of you began your reasons for doing a global project with the concept of cultural sensitivity.

**PamNi:** I think this would be a powerful project especially if you include Rachel suggestion and it might be cool to tell the students a country that was participating and ask them to predict what the statistically average person from their would look like.

**LindaU:** What does this mean to you, and how do you convey it to your students?

**RachelLS:** that's a good idea, Pam

**MonijitK:** I agree about the comfort in commonality but I think ppl should also learn to be comfortable and appreciate diversity

**MonijitK:** because we aren't all the same with some differences...I think most cultures are pretty different with some common threads

**RachelLS:** I agree and that's why I think students should examine differences as well

**LindaU:** interesting point Monijit.

**MonijitK:** thanx!

**LindaU:** Now think about how people in some countries, especially emerging nations might feel about doing a project with a class in the U.S.

**MonijitK:** yea I was thinking about that

**LindaU:** Do you think everyone would share your enthusiasm?

**LindaU:** why or why not?

**MonijitK:** there is a lot of bitterness in some countries..even established countries...towards the states..and young children there tend to be more aware of some issues that our youth isn't really exposed to...at least not the more personal outside of how great and righteous our government is

**YazidR:** I think our students here in the US need to open their eyes on other nations and countries

**RachelLS:** no. right now a lot of countries are not happy with the US and probably don't want much to do with us. I have friends in Ireland, France, & Spain who tell me repeatedly how upset they are with us

**LindaU:** You are right on target with where I've been leading this discussion, Monijit.

**MonijitK:** I think this is an issue I don't know how I would deal with..because what do u do when ppl express their views of hatred for us and our students have no idea why?

**RachelLS:** great point, moni

**LindaU:** I've just read a book called "Terror in the Name of God."

**BrendaHo:** More reason to do a project of this nature-to soothe feelings

**YazidR:** what was it about?

**LindaU:** One of the points in this book is that in some places they see U.S. globalization as a loss of their culture and way of life.

**JeffC:** Well Moni... I sympathize with you... but if we continue to have a "head in the sands" attitude towards international relations... we'll never improve our communication with the rest of the world... that's exactly why we need to get students involved in global pbl.

**LindaU:** Good point Brenda

**MonijitK:** much like the British a while ago

**HaileyR:** Good point Brenda. Much of the view of the US comes from the Media

**RachelLS:** I agree, Brenda. not just soothe feelings but to let other cultures know that their ideas of the US and of Americans might not be accurate or fair

**MonijitK:** I don't think we should go there

**YazidR:** Diversity is great and encouraged by any society.

**MonijitK:** with sugar coating and clearing our name

**MonijitK:** I think we should simply find a way to work around it..and to maybe kill em with kindness so to speak

**LindaU:** The question is how can we help U.S. students develop a sensitivity and appreciation for other cultures without giving the impression that we want to change them.

**LindaU:** Yazid, Is diversity really encouraged by any society?

**YazidR:** First we need a policy to make them learn more foreign languages

**MonijitK:** get them involved with experiencing things

**MonijitK:** I meant we shouldn't go there..not we should...

**YazidR:** Not 100%

**YazidR:** I agree

**YazidR:** but there are things that we can't change easily and need work and patience

**RachelLS:** when teaching my unit on Texas history (specifically the Alamo), my students debate both sides of the reasons for Texas Revolution...the Anglos side & the Mexican side. I think having our students look at issues from both/multiple perspectives will help them gain understanding without changing them

**MonijitK:** I don't think so at all. I think people here adapt and in other countries want to become more American because of TV...but I don't think that in the hearts of the masses diversity is encouraged...or appreciated

**LindaU:** We have a wonderful opportunity to use the technology tools available to help our children develop a cultural understanding that could lead to world peace if we do it right.

**JeffC:** Well Linda... for starters... any global PBL should start with a promise from our students that we won't drop down any MacDonal'ds or strip malls in their neighborhoods.

**BrendaHo:** We as teachers need to teach students the rule of "Different Strokes for Different Folks" and the idea that we can't change people but we need to live with them and allow for the differences before we begin a project of this nature.

**LindaU:** TV is definitely a factor.

**LindaU:** and appreciate a celebrate those differences.

**YazidR:** I live in Louisiana and some Cajun still have problems with their own culture and language that was banned from schools 40 years ago

**LindaU:** exactly, Yazid.

**YazidR:** Our students need to learn other foreign languages and they need to be mandatory rather than just optional or a time for relaxing and playing

**LindaU:** Given what we have been discussing, what kind of a project would you be interested in doing, and which students in which country (ies)

**LindaU:** Yazid has a point. In other countries people are at least bilingual, and many are multilingual.

**YazidR:** I may work with a French speaking country since it deals with what I teach

**MonijitK:** although I was born in the states in think the most wonderful gift my parents gave me was their native language

**YazidR:** and I may choose food as the main idea

**LindaU:** Is your native language French?

**YazidR:** No

**RachelLS:** I was looking at a project with Argentina & Spain in which our students would design web pages that illustrate their lives in their respective countries including photo portraits

**LindaU:** food is a great topic... it tells so much about a culture.

**YazidR:** French is my second language

**YazidR:** I speak three languages

**LindaU:** In my husband's culture the word for delicious and the word for having fun are the same word.

**MonijitK:** makes sense

**LindaU:** English, French and ? Yazid.

**YazidR:** Berber, French and English

**PamNi:** Rachel..that sounds like a neat idea. I think the inclusion of photos would help the kids connect between the cultures.

**MonijitK:** what is Berber

**RachelLS:** thanks!

**LindaU:** Great idea Rachel.

**YazidR:** Berber is my mother's tongue language

**MonijitK:** from where

**YazidR:** It's an African language

**MonijitK:** oh

**YazidR:** North Africa

**MonijitK:** ok

**LindaU:** Photos are great... what about video.. digital... online... ?

**YazidR:** It's a great idea

**HaileyR:** I think videos are an excellent tool for teaching.

**RachelLS:** ooh! wonderful idea since we just learned how to include imovies

**PamNi:** I think video would be awesome and we have been trying to get teachers to use more multimedia but then the issues of streaming, server space, playback, all have to be considered.

**MonijitK:** I have a question about our transcript...do private messages also get sent to our email?

**LindaU:** Have you thought about tackling a difficult topic like the war in Iraq and having students discuss varying views?

**LindaU:** It will be emailed to you.

**MonijitK:** k

**LindaU:** This would be a project, perhaps for older students.

**MonijitK:** yes I have... the reason why I want to be a higher grade level teacher in elementary is so that such topics can be addressed and discussed...

**RachelLS:** I haven't, mostly since I have to teach so much about Spanish-speaking countries, curriculum mandates, etc...

**YazidR:** You are right

**MonijitK:** I know it would have to be watered down for them but high school is scary and u only have the students for an hr a day..

**MonijitK:** I have to go guys to another discussion..this was awesome. I really learned a lot..thank you..take care..

**LindaU:** oops looks like we are running out of time.

**YazidR:** I see that.

**LindaU:** If you have any thoughts, my email is [ullahlinda@foothill.edu](mailto:ullahlinda@foothill.edu).

**RachelLS:** thanks! I got a lot out of this too!

**BJ:** The next GPBL discussion is April 22

**LindaU:** I hope you all gained a new perspective.

**YazidR:** Linda .Thank you for your kindness and your topic. It was really interesting.

**BrendaHo:** It was unique