

Title of Session: Global Project Based Learning

Moderator: Linda Ullah

Title of File: 20040429gpbl

Date: April 29, 2004

Room: After School Online Room

BJ: Welcome to Global Project Based Learning, everyone.

BJ: we usually start all the discussions in Tapped In with introductions

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

LindaU: I'll begin: Hi, I'm Linda Ullah. I'm teacher in residence at Foothill College-a community college in Los Altos Hills, CA. Global PBL is one of my passions. Please tell me who you are and why you are here today, tonight..

AnnieLH: I am Annie, French teacher in Louisiana, grades k-4.

JulieF: I'm a fourth grade eMINTS teacher in Missouri

LindaU: Annie, What brought you to this discussion?

TraceyP: I am Tracey and I am a district technology trainer in New Orleans.

GeoffreGst3: Hello! I am Geoff, A student from the University of Akron.

OfJennifeW: Hi. I am a librarian and computer lab teacher in Louisiana grades 3-5

ThoyL: Hi I am Thoy, I am a technology coordinator in Franklin Parish Louisiana

KathyCh: Hi, Everyone, I am a instructional technology facilitator for Morehouse Parish School District in Louisiana

LatangaB: I am LaTanga Blackson, Elementary Supervisor in Franklin Parish Louisiana

AnnieLH: I do not know much about PBL and wanted to learn more about incorporate it in my teaching.

SharonCT: I am Sharon Trisler, Technology Coordinator, Catahoula Parish in Louisiana. I am attending as part of an assignment in an Ed Tech class.

LindaU: Please remember to let us know why you've decided to join a Global PBL discussion..

TraceyP: Lots of Louisianans

TraceyP: I am trying to get people interested in PBL and want to be more comfortable with it myself.

AnnieLH: Lots of people being trained with LCET!!!!

KathyCh: We are all taking a technology course that requires us to participate in a Tapped In session

LatangaB: I am attending as part of a technology assignment.

JulieF: I joined the discussion tonight because I'm interested in having my students participate in more online projects

LindaU: Ah the truth.. you must attend a discussion!!!! but why this one?

ThoyL: I am attending the meeting as part of an assignment for and Ed Tech class, Global Project based learning sounds like something that would be great to show teachers in my district.

GeoffreGst3: I am present to fill a requirement for a class and I have never done this before so I hope all of you have a little patience

GeoffreGst3: I am a slow typer

OfJennifeW: I am also part of an Ed Tech class and I'm interested in learning about students working together through online communication because of this class.

SusanR joined the room.

LindaU: Okay, since many of you are just getting your feet wet in PBL and Global PBL.. Let's start from the beginning tonight... okay?

BJ: Linda, the Middle Level Science discussion on Tuesday looked at different ways to engage the students in learning...PBL was one way that was discussed

KathyCh: My job is to help teachers integrate technology into the curriculum and I would like to learn more about how to do that with PBL

LindaU: What is Project Based Learning.. How would you all define it?

YolendaH joined the room.

LindaU: Welcome Yolanda we are introducing ourselves...

DeborahEB joined the room.

GeoffreGst3: I'd say using a group or long term goal to enhance the learning process

JulieF: I think PBL gives students opportunities to come up with solutions to real problems

OfJennifeW: As a way for students to work together to accomplish a learning goal

PaulL: I teach 1-4 grade special education students

TraceyP: PBL to me using multiple forms of technology to do creative collaborative projects using multidisciplines.

LindaU: okay... learning goal.. academic content..

GeoffreGst3: But I do like what Julie said !!!

YolendaH: Hi, I teach K-2 special ed

LindaU: use of technology.. good..

ThoyL: I would define Project Based Learning as activity that promotes learning and allows students to work in groups on projects. It would require input from all students

LindaU: solve real problems... yeay!

SusanR: a systematic teaching method that engages students in learning knowledge and skills through an extended inquiry process

JeffC joined the room.

LindaU: extended inquiry process.. good... student decision making..

LindaU: work in groups... collaboration... you all are on top of this!

SusanR: It's structured around complex, authentic questions and carefully designed activities and tasks.

YolendaH: To me Project Based Learning for my students would be getting them to cooperate on a project that could be presented to an audience and would involve much research

KathyCh: encourages higher order thinking skills

ChristinSi joined the room.

LindaU: perfect... take a look at <http://pblmm.k12.ca.us/PBLGuide/WhyPBL.html> by clicking on the url in blue.

AnnieLH: Incorporate curriculum through real-life problem-solving....??

OfJennifeW: facilitated by the teacher not led

LindaU: Take a couple of minutes to read and explore this site.

TraceyP: I can't get it.

LindaU: Tracey.. the web site? can you click on the blue font?

TraceyP: I clicked, I hear a click and nothing happens

DeborahEB: Authentic problems in cooperative groups/

LindaU: It opens another web page. look behind this one?

JulieF: if you have a popup blocker you'll have to hold down control at the same time you click on the link

BJ: if you have a pop up blocker, press ctrl and click

GeoffreGst3: I like how it states that students "find a way to solve a problem"

GeoffreGst3: their own way

LindaU: Yes, problems solving is a critical element.

RyanWB: talk to you all later! thanks for the good discussion, it was great

PaulL left the room (signed off).

LindaU: Tracy.. do you have it yet?

RyanWB left the room (signed off).

TraceyP: No, sorry.

LindaU: Bj is there some way to help Tracy?

BJ Nods to Linda

SusanR: I like the idea of the extended time frame which allows students to plan, revise and reflect on their learning.

TraceyP: I don't know why. I even tried to open in another window and it won't work.

LindaU: Meanwhile what do the rest of you see on this site that is consistent with your view of PBL or not consistent... ?

YolendaH: Have you tried to have lower elementary students participate in this style learning?

LindaU: Yolanda... yes.

OfJennifeW: I like that it is interdisciplinary

ThoyL: Interdisciplinary Learning is consistent with my view

DeborahEB left the room (signed off).

SusanR: what about sending the text to the Pasteboard and copying and pasting the url into a new window, Tracey

LindaU: One thing to keep in mind is that PBL takes a lot of careful UP FRONT planning.

LindaU: good idea Susan.

JeffC: I tried projecting the URL to her... do you have it now Tracey?

LindaU: You must know your group well, and be able to plan according to their abilities and "expertise" with doing projects.

ThoyL: I had not thought about the fact that many of the skills learned through PBL are those desired by today's employers

AnnieLH: I have never taught using PBL, this site is interesting, but I would not know where to start...

LindaU: Other thoughts before we move on?

LindaU: Annie..hold that thought.. It starts with planning... In a bit .. I'll share a planning guide.

LatangaB: I agree. PBL is very important in the "real world." It definitely takes cooperation and being able to work with others.

LindaU: Another way to look at PBL is the 6 As of Project Based Learning. This is similar to the 7 elements we just explored... but uses different vocabulary... Take a look at this site... http://virtualschoolhouse.visionlink.org/pbl_rigor.htm

OfJennifeW: Also many employers want employees that can solve problems and create solutions

LindaU: Ah... Jennifer.. you are on to the SCANS Report.

LindaU: Back to the 6 A's site... It starts with Academic Rigor..then... Authenticity, applied learning, adult connections, active exploration and assessment practices.. Click on each of the links next to Select to find out more..

JulieF: I like the 6 A's because it makes it easy to remember all those important reasons why I do this

LindaU: Again.. when you are done how does this fit with your definition of PBL? Which of the two definitions seems more comfortable for you?

LatangaB: Tonight, I can most certainly agree with "academic rigor."

TraceyP: Got it!!

LindaU: Too many people see PBL as "fluff".. It is important to know that academic rigor is core to PBL.. standards based---content driven

LindaU: Yeay Tracy!!! Whew!

AnnieLH: Authenticity for the real-life aspect...and Assessment Practice.

TraceyP: Darn pop-up blocker

LindaU: The question then is how to you insure academic rigor

JulieF: the assessment can be a challenge

ThoyL: Authenticity will make the learning experience personal to each student

LindaU: Assessment is key! It drives learning!

GeoffreGst3: I can see why people would see it as fluff if they did not look into it more deeply

JulieF: when students spend a long time on a project it is hard to give a "grade" that is big enough (for me anyway)

TraceyP: I do like this. It is very specific to the tasks.

AnnieLH: Academic rigor: teacher must be structured in his/her expectations.

GeoffreGst3: But once you get into the knowledge aspect of it PBL seems like an excellent idea

TraceyP: Behavioral objectives are clearly states.

LindaU: Julie.. have you ever used rubrics to assess learning?

JulieF: also when parents are used to 5 worksheets coming home a day and then their child is in a classroom that is more PBL

JulieF: I do use rubrics, but my summer project is to refine them so they reflect what I value in the classroom

JulieF: by that I mean, I want to put more weight on the higher level thinking skills

DeborahEB joined the room.

KathyCh: I like that it gives purpose for learning by tying the content to real-world applications and problem solving situations

SusanR: "adult connections" ~ make use of experts in a particular field especially within the local community

JulieF: I'm interested in the adult connections too as a way to connect to people all over the world as well as our local community

OfJennifeW: Community involvement especially with professionals is great

LindaU: Julie and others.. on the assessment issue.. take a look at:

<http://www.garlic.com/~lullah/gpbl/topic5/t5read.html>

LindaU: Notice there are many ways to assess learning in PBL.. At the top under the tabs look at Walk Arouds, Checklists and rubrics, Peer Review, Reflection, etc... Assessment is both formative (ongoing) and summative.. final

ThoyL: So when students are involved in PBL they could be assessed from beginning to end on different things, like journaling their research? That is great and it means they will accumulate many grades and not get just one grade at the end of the project.

AnnieLH: I never liked the curve...because it implies someone failing. It is possible to all succeed!

LindaU: Good point... Thoy...

TraceyP: This is norm referenced verses criterion referenced.

LindaU: yup!

JulieF: that is very helpful Linda, I think by adding the walkarounds and more reflection I can reach my goals

LindaU: Pre and post assessing is critical you know exactly what students learned.

GeoffreGst3: I liked the replacement for the bell curve with the continuum for lifelong learning

LindaU: Thank you Geoffrey... the Bell compares students to each other, but never addresses what is really being learning as a result of the project.

LindaU: Bj.. I just gave them the SCANS report site:

<http://www.academicinnovations.com/report.html>

GeoffreGst3: I have to run thanks for the introduction.....I am sure that I will be back

AnnieLH: Interesting, the visual graphic of the wrap...the teacher is wrapping all the arrows, his role in the learning process! I like that!

LindaU: Can you compare the elements or 6 A's of PBL to the SCANS skills?

TraceyP: I have heard this mentioned before, that people are losing jobs in the business world because they unable to work collaboratively and can't get along with others.

LindaU: Annie... learning is fluid... and continual and spiraling.. we build on past knowledge and skills.

LindaU: ah Tracey... so what is the link to PBL?

AnnieLH: True...nothing to do with the curve!

OfJennifeW: They both expect students to work together well with others to create solutions to problems

TraceyP: Real-life applications of real-life problem solving...

LindaU: How many of you have seen Apollo 13 (or remember the actual event?)

ThoyL: I've seen the movie, don't remember the actual event

OfJennifeW: Saw the movie

LindaU: My favorite line from that movie is "Failure is NOT and option."

TraceyP: Is that where that came from?

LindaU: Would it be fair to say that that is a real life example of PBL in the workplace?

OfJennifeW: Yes

TraceyP: In an extreme example, sure. Instead of making their lives hang in the balance, there could be some other form of consequence that is not grade related.

LindaU: Okay... now.. planning...someone asked..where do you begin...

LindaU: Take a look at this planning template:

http://linc.ca.campusgrid.net/home/EDIT+241Foothill+Cohort/Final_Project_Template

LindaU: Notice that it is very detailed and specific.

LindaU: Remember I said that PBL takes a lot of UP FRONT planning...

LindaU: It begins with knowing what the enduring understandings or deep learning you want your students "To get" are.

AnnieLH: Yes, but you can use the same pattern over and over again, using different subject, right?

CharlesE joined the room.

LindaU: Yes, Annie... but remember someone earlier pointed out that PBL is interdisciplinary.. thematic.

TraceyP: Wow.

SusanR: great model!

ThoyL: good template, very detailed and guides the development of a PBL activity

AnnieLH: Ok, but in a perfect world, how many PBL a single teacher would do in a semester?

LindaU: In Calif we must tie all learning experiences to standards

TraceyP: I agree Susan, extensively planned.

LatangaB: PBL is definitely the way to go!

ChristinSi: WebQuests could be considered PBLs?

LindaU: yes Web quests are PBL.. does everyone know about WEbQuests?

TraceyP: I would once a semester to start, Annie.

JulieF: Annie I think you have to start with some PBLs each year and add to them

OfJennifeW: Yes

JulieF: actually that planning guide is almost exactly like the planning guide for webquests

LindaU: I usually have my students (most are teachers) plan on project to start with...

ThoyL: Yes, webquest are much the same as PBL

LindaU: Ah, Julie.. you are correct..

ChristinSi: And WebQuests are planning intensive on the front end.

LatangaB: I agree Thoy.

LindaU: Okay.. then when/why might you want to do a project with a school or schools in another geographic location?

LindaU: Hence.. Global Project Based Learning

AnnieLH: Share...similarities, differences...

TraceyP: Different perspectives.

LindaU: good...

SharonCT: Collect data to compare

ThoyL: I like Annie's question, how many PBL's could a single teacher implement in one semester?

AnnieLH: Ideally...???

JulieF: some teachers I now do PBL's the whole year

SharonCT: wouldn't it depend on the project?

LatangaB: Share cultural differences and similarities.

TraceyP: How about one a semester, to start?

LindaU: Julie.. I work with a school that is a PBL school..

ThoyL: Wow, they must plan all summer.. just think the whole year would be planned out before it starts

LindaU: Good Latanga

DeborahEB: Work together on a collaborative task.

LindaU: Take a look at: <http://www.garlic.com/~lullah/gpbl/topic1/t1read1.html>

LindaU: This is a rationale for Global projects

JulieF: my grade level is working on a yearlong plan for next year and we are planning a little retreat to get our yearlong plan done

AnnieLH: I went there before the meeting today...

AnnieLH: Linda, what are the age groups at your school?

LindaU: What in this rationale catches your attention?

AnnieLH: All about people

LindaU: People.. good...

ThoyL: all seem important, but I had not thought about personal literacy

JulieF: our community is not very diverse, so one of our school goals is to recognize/teach diversity, so that was the first thing that caught my eye

OfJennifeW: That our economy is global student need skills to work with people from many cultures

LindaU: and value all cultures.

ThoyL: business literacy was something I had not thought about either

TraceyP: Personal Literacy is so very different from one culture to the next. This is why we fail to understand the problems in the Middle East.

JulieF: another thing is the learning how to learn, I know there is no way I can teach my students everything, I have to teach them how to learn and solve problems

LindaU: Yes, Tracy.. you are on to something very important.

TraceyP: Priorities in other countries differ vastly from ours.

ChristinSi: These are skills everyone can use. We all deal with different cultures, even in our local communities.

OfJennifeW: That is so true--you have to be able to inform yourself to better protect your interests

LindaU: One of the issues that keeps coming up in our current world situation is that some cultures feel "pushed out" by Western culture. People in these countries feel that their culture is not valued by Western countries, and that globalization is replacing their cultures with U.S. and European cultures. How can we, as educators be sensitive to this issue as we connect our students with students in other countries?

CharlesE left the room.

JulieF: we have to be careful to not teach or even infer that our way is the only way or the best way

ThoyL: we need to teach them how to value cultural differences

TraceyP: Researching and Role Playing

LindaU: okay take a look at this:

LindaU: Photographer Peter Menzel has published a wonderful book called MATERIAL WORLD. Some of the photos from this book can be found at:

LindaU: <http://www.menzelphoto.com/gallery/mw.htm> How could you use these photos as the starting point for a project to help students value each others cultures?

OfJennifeW: Learning to listen and consider others point of view

JulieF: I think even more than role playing in this day and age we can have real interactions with people from other cultures, then they become real and not imaginary

SharonCT: teaching the value of other cultures should begin early

JulieF: as I look at these pictures I see that many include families

JeffC: I just wanted to share a few sites... that are primarily there to help facilitate collaboration... of course... I'm hoping collaboration and PBL go hand in hand.

TraceyP: Ask what do you is important to these people.

JulieF: I would ask my students what appears to be important to these people?

JeffC: First... I have 15 links at <http://tinyurl.com/amen>

LindaU: I've started using Peter Menzel's Material World in several of my courses to get people to think how we can share cultures in a positive way that values all cultures.

TraceyP: Julie that is scary, are you in my head.

LindaU: Jeff C has some great resources for you all.

ThoyL: Ask students to think about the fact that these pictures represent all their material possessions

JeffC: Within that site... is <http://www.epals.com> ... which is an *excellent* way to get your students a filterable and safe email account... in addition to getting them to possibly connect with other students around the world. There is also a built in translator... it's free for up to 35 student accounts per teacher...

LindaU: Could your students use the Peter Menzel site to think about their own culture and what they would want to share with others in other places?

OfJennifeW: Could any of our students fit all their possession into one photograph

OfJennifeW: What would their possessions say about them?

LindaU: good point Jennifer...

TraceyP: What would our students' pictures have in them? How is that?

LatangaB: I would ask students to imagine themselves in one of those pictures and think about their possessions compared to these pictures.

LindaU: If you want to get started in a global project.. Jeff's ePals link is a great one

JeffC: The fifth link there is <http://takingitglobal.org> ... an astounding site actually created for and by students...

LindaU: Latanga... great

JeffC: I met the founder at NCCE... he told a story about a kid in India... who worked with kids in Africa... the students in Africa didn't even have electricity... but did these phenomenal art projects... the kid in India managed to get digital photos... and built them a website. Seems to me that is not only global collaboration... but pbl at its finest.

ThoyL: That site was created by students... it is great!

SharonCT: Ask students to determine in what decade farmers in the USA farmed in that manner

LindaU: Thank you Jeff.. this is great!

LindaU: I have one final site for you all:

<http://www.glc.me.uk/news.asp?section=00010001&newsID=83>

JeffC: The seventh site there is Global School House

<http://www.globalschoolnet.org/GSH/> ... which is where I got my start with international collaboration through the Newsday Project.

AnnieLH: What is for supper? Students could really picture themselves in this situation!

TraceyP: Wow again, that site is incredible.

LindaU: did you click on the www.outsidemywindow.org link?

JeffC: I also recommend Myschoolonline and Think.com (sites 9 and 10) to build websites on the cheap... I've started building a collaborative site with an educator in Nigeria on Myschoolonline... it's only \$40 per year, but you can give permission to students to build pages within your site...

ThoyL: What a great way to understand other cultures, by looking "outside the window"

LindaU: Any parting thoughts?

SharonCT: Thanks for the inspiration

SusanR: Here are the suggested epal projects geared to particular grade levels

<http://www.epals.com/projects/>

JeffC: Facilitate--Validate--Motivate--Collaborate

TraceyP: I waited the whole month for this discussion, I am glad I did.

JeffC: Those are my personal buzz words.

LindaU: You all have been great! This has been a wonderful discussion!

JulieF: This was very helpful. I hope we can continue this discussion in another session.

AnnieLH: Yes. By looking out the window, you are allowed to see other things without being part of it. You can be looking from a train, a plane, a boat, etc.

TraceyP: All of these sites will be available in our transcript, yes?

ThoyL: Thank you for opening my eyes even further.. there is just so much that can be done today with technology.

JeffC: Yes Tracey

AnnieLH: Thanks to you, I have a lot to look at now...

DeborahEB: This has been so helpful to my own Global Learning class. So glad I dropped in !

LatangaB: This was awesome!!! Technology will never be the same for me!

LindaU: I wish you all could see the big smile on my face!

DeborahEB: When do you meet again? [Ed. Note: The next GPBL discussion is May 27, 2004]

LindaU: Thank you all for coming

TraceyP: Come see us.

KathyCh: This has been a great discussion...can't wait to view the sites in depth

SusanR: Thanks Linda. PBL is further clarified

LatangaB: Thanks for everything!

DeborahEB: Thank you for a great discussion.