

Title of Session: Global Project Based Learning

Moderator: NA

Title of File: 20040826gpbl

Date: August 26, 2004

Room: After School Online Room

BJ: Let's start with introductions, please. I think this group can have a lively discussion!

ShulaK: sunny Vancouver... I see mountains through cloud...

ClayGst4 is confused "what's ASO?"

ShulaK: After School Online, Clay - a Tapped In program

BJ: ASO = After School Online, Clay. It's a public conference room in Tapped In

CandaceJaG: very sunny here in Mississippi Delta, celebrating 40 years anniversary of Freedom Summer

BJ . o O (the program is also called After School Online, as Shula pointed out)

ClayGst4: Thanks Shula and BJ

ShulaK smiles

ClayGst4: What's Freedom Summer, Candace?

SusanR: all transcripts from past discussions and calendar sessions are housed here, in the ASO

CandaceJaG: When people in Mississippi became militant about the vote

CandaceJaG: freedom to vote

ClayGst4: No wonder you're hot in the Mississippi Delta

CandaceJaG: in the South

ClayGst4: Did you know Aboriginal people in Canada weren't allowed to vote not that long ago?

BJ: Candace also has some burning issues she wants to discuss...perhaps that is why she is so warm?

CandaceJaG: Clay, yes

DavidWe listens

ClayGst4: What burning issues, Candace?

CandaceJaG: global issues

ShulaK listens

CandaceJaG: for use in the classroom

SusanR is all ears

CandaceJaG: I am in the third week of school

DavidWe: Candace is a hard worker

ClayGst4 pauses to reflect o O (I wonder what global issues?)

ClayGst4: RU teaching or studenting, Candace? Not that I'm big on the distinction...

CandaceJaG: I teach 140 kids everyday in high school

CandaceJaG: 6 subjects

ShulaK: what is your subject, Candace?

ClayGst4: quelle subjects, Candace?

CandaceJaG: world history, state studies, economics, us history, government, geography, sociology

SusanR . o O (heavy teaching load)

ClayGst4: do you integrate global issues into those?

CandaceJaG: I would like to work out some learning for me and the students for comparative studies,

CandaceJaG: data

CandaceJaG: fun

CandaceJaG: yes Clay

ClayGst4: I hope you get some prep in there some time

ShulaK: Can you tell us about a project that you have all enjoyed, that is close to your heart, Candace?

CandaceJaG: right now, economics of land

ShulaK nods

CandaceJaG: farms

ShulaK: In which parts of the world, for example?

CandaceJaG: but I would love to share environmental issues with different perspectives

ClayGst4: Canada just had a case at the Supreme Court about genetically modified seeds

ClayGst4: it was quite interesting

CandaceJaG: great, thanks Clay, that helps

CandaceJaG: Shula, does not matter

DavidWe: What was the judgment, Clay?

CandaceJaG: maybe a debate Shula

ClayGst4: Try the council of Canadians website for more info, Candace - I'll look for the URL

CandaceJaG: video

CandaceJaG: thanks Clay, I can find it

BJ: Candace, the National Geographic for this month is about global warming and how the gulf coast is being effected

ClayGst4: The Supreme Court of Canada decided that

CandaceJaG: thanks BJ

CandaceJaG: the shrimp industry and gas and oil

ClayGst4: the company that genetically modified seeds to be resistant to pesticides

CandaceJaG: are big issues

CandaceJaG: and the shrinkage of that area

BJ: Candace, it would be interesting to meet with a class from Florida or the Carolinas and compare data

CandaceJaG: yes, exactly Bj

ClayGst4: was entitled to receive payment from a farmer who collected seeds that blew onto his farm

ShulaK: Here's the story in Wired:

<http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,1282,61990,00.html>

BJ: Candace, are you a member of the K-12 students in Ti group?

DavidWe: I remember that case

CandaceJaG: but just a minimalist of doing some research and presenting to another class would be great

CandaceJaG: not sure BJ, maybe

BJ: no, you're not. And that would be the perfect group to join...

BJ: and post your interests to the discussion list

CandaceJaG: ok Bj, I'll take of that

BJ: click on the SEARCH tab, then Groups, then K-12 STUDENTS IN TI2

CandaceJaG: thanks Bj.

BJ: this group is a support group for teachers interested in bringing in K-12 students to the student campus

ClayGst4: Vandana Shiva also does some writing about sustainable agriculture and globalization issues

ShulaK nods, great author!

CandaceJaG: my problem is that I want to get up with other educators about these issue and development a plan for the kids.

ShulaK: I know some teachers you could talk to...

CandaceJaG: great Shula

CandaceJaG: email is deltamama49@aol.com

DavidWe smiles

JeffC: Epals, IEARN, IECC, Takingitglobal, Hilites, Newsday ... those are a few sites to check out (if they haven't been mentioned here yet).

ClayGst4 listens intently

CandaceJaG: thank you Jeff, I know those.

DavidWe: Is ThinkQuest still running projects?

JeffC: My recommendation is for people to *join* projects rather than try and create them on their own... easier that way!

JeffC: Yes... Thinkquest, Mayaquest, Jason Project... to name a few more.

DavidWe nods

ShulaK: And the Alberta Teachers' Federation site is good, Candace:

<http://www.geoec.org/resources/>

CandaceJaG: thank you Shula

SusanR: What about CIESE <http://www.k12science.org/currichome.html>

ShulaK smiles, you're welcome - BC's version is here:

<http://www.bctf.ca/Social/GlobalEd/>

CandaceJaG: thanks all

ShulaK: Enough food for thought there, Candace?

DavidWe: Good job Susan - you know I work with the CIESE folks

CandaceJaG: well, I can look at sites but

DavidWe listens

CandaceJaG: the description for the forum is to connect to work together for curriculum for real life projects

ShulaK: So.. would you like to find teacher-partners elsewhere, to plan with over time, develop new materials, etc?

SusanR: Could David give more examples from CIESE?

DavidWe: it's a math and science site

CandaceJaG: yeah, Shula

CandaceJaG: or develop some dialogue around curriculum share

ShulaK: Candace, does your own Teachers' Federation have a social justice / global ed section?

CandaceJaG: no

ShulaK thinks

DavidWe . o O (Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education == CIESE)

DavidWe: GLOBE project is an international science collaborative project run from the UN

DavidWe: Bj and I were thinking we should have someone from GLOBE come and present in TI

ShulaK: Have you been to any global ed conferences? Maybe that would be a start? I wonder if there is something close by...? And yes, a UN presenter wd be great.

DavidWe: I'm not sure if that's what Candace is interested in, though

ClayGst4: Candace, I found www.globalexchange.org helpful when working on Fair Trade project a couple of years ago

CandaceJaG: thanks Shula, that is why I joined tapped in

DavidWe smiles

CandaceJaG: no money for professional development

DavidWe nods

CandaceJaG: and no willingness to allow me to go to such things, except in the summer

ClayGst4: the perils of being a transformative teacher in a status quo world

CandaceJaG: status quo

DavidWe: Might want to let folks know a bit more about where you teach, Candace

DavidWe . o O (population)

ClayGst4: I just attended an "Institute" on global ed (with the divine Shula), and many participants echoed the sentiment that they felt isolated

CandaceJaG: I am in one of the poorest districts in America

CandaceJaG: my kids come to school to eat

CandaceJaG: yes, exactly Clay

CandaceJaG: I don't have heat

CandaceJaG: we don't have text books for most classes

ClayGst4: It's a hard issue to deal with - have you heard of Parker Palmer's book "The Courage to Teach"?

CandaceJaG: Yes Clay

CandaceJaG: I made a presentation in a staff meeting

CandaceJaG: of his work

ClayGst4: It inspired me at a difficult time in my teaching career

CandaceJaG: I just wanted to get my students involved with the world

ShulaK: Wow, Candace. It's good to meet you. Maybe we should connect your students with ours, as penpals?

CandaceJaG: and to devise some lessons for us to join the world community

CandaceJaG: thanks Shula

ClayGst4: I think that student involvement in the world in authentic tasks is crucial

CandaceJaG: with 140 kids, that might be too difficult for me

ClayGst4: Can you pick a specific class out of the subjects you teach

ShulaK: what kind of computer access do you have? hope that isn't a silly question

ClayGst4: Pick one project per subject, perhaps

CandaceJaG: Shula. have a computer lab. fought for access

CandaceJaG: thanks

CandaceJaG: no question is silly
SusanR: Have you considered using webquests, Candace?
CandaceJaG: I do product design
ClayGst4: Do you like green eggs and ham? is pretty silly but clever
CandaceJaG: that is one of the options
CandaceJaG: Shula, for instance, the cotton is about to be harvested
CandaceJaG: and in my world history class last year
CandaceJaG: we spun cotton the African way
ClayGst4: what's product design? writing webquests?
CandaceJaG: and sent pics and instructions to some Italians
CandaceJaG: it was fun
CandaceJaG: no Clay, product design is for alternative assessments
CandaceJaG: like paper, poster, webquest, speech, skit. etc
CandaceJaG: students make a proposal to me
CandaceJaG: then I okay the design for assessment
ClayGst4: like a portfolio?
ClayGst4: sounds very student-centered
CandaceJaG: products can be put in a portfolio
ShulaK: I bet there are some students here who'd like to read first-hand accounts of the cotton harvest
CandaceJaG: yeah
CandaceJaG: and then what do you guys do with your land?
CandaceJaG: maybe a class project with a video
ClayGst4: o O (this raises the possibility of seeing how geographical areas are connected by products)
CandaceJaG: yes Clay
ClayGst4: Here in Kelowna, there is lots of berry growing and orcharding
CandaceJaG: economics of geography
ClayGst4: reminds me of the Grapes of Wrath
ShulaK: it seems to me that even if your students just knew that other kids were interested in their lives, it might help motivate them - that's why I ask about the computer lab.... you could connect two classes, talking about what each area grows, the seasons, the economy, etc... via the web/email
ClayGst4: Though written in '39, it speaks quite relevantly to globalization of our era
CandaceJaG: Clay, I live in the land of ol King Cotton
CandaceJaG: lynching intimidation rape and murder by planters
CandaceJaG: this ain't no Gone with the Wind
ShulaK: Wow. Wow. We only hear about those stories through the media.
DavidWe . o O (Frankly, Scarlett)
ShulaK: Although something really dreadful happened outside my school last week... but nothing on that scale.
CandaceJaG: yes, Shula to the lab, but more fun to do video etc
ClayGst4: Steinbeck's description of the flight of the "Okies" and the hardships they faced was pretty brutal, too
CandaceJaG: like the global project Linda Ullah is involved in
ShulaK: I'd love a visit, Candace. You can find me at www.gvdes.ca. That is our school

web site. I project manage it and you can find me in ABOUT > STAFF > "What we've read" -- not a video, but still...

CandaceJaG: Shula, ok great I'll get up with you soon. Good to meet you

DavidWe: Dorothea Lange photographs of the 30s

ShulaK nods you too! Is everyone heading out? should I head back to my okanagan cherry dessert now?

ClayGst4: o O(sounds delicious)

ShulaK: Speaking of which... it won't make itself... so I'm off to bake and I'll email you all a slice, ok?

DavidWe: Good to see you both, I'm joining the next session