

Title of Session: Global Project Based Learning - NCLB

Moderator: Linda Ullah

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Room: GPBL Group

LindaU: Hi Eduardo

EduardoM: Hi, Linda

LindaU: Yeay... Eduardo is in Brazil.. I did a great project with a school in Sao Paulo!

EduardoM: really?

EduardoM: what kind of project?

LindaU: <http://www.garlic.com/~lullah/brazilus/water.html>

LindaU: Hi Eduardo et. al I'm Linda Ullah. I work at a community college in the San Francisco Bay area doing technology integration staff development, However, tonight I'm in Charlotte, NC..

EduardoM: I was checking students to come over, I'll be teaching online in a few minutes

EduardoM: it sounds really nice Linda U

JeffC: oh... your class is starting in a few minutes now Eduardo?

EduardoM: I live on technology

EduardoM: Online class, on Paltalk Messenger

EduardoM: Distance Learning

BJB2: I wasn't sure what the topic was that you had in mind, Linda. I understand Global Economy

BJB2: but not sure if you were including NCLB

LindaU: In the U.S. we have a law called No Child Left Behind.. What I'd planned to have as part of this discussion, but I may spend less time with that than I'd planned (sorry Jeff) and more with the global economy aspect.

JeffC: No problem for me Linda

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and on Tapped In helpdesk

JeffC: I'm on Helpdesk, in Oregon, lurking on educational sidelines in a number of places.

LindaU smiles.. yes, Jeff always shows up somewhere.

EduardoM: I have a website at <http://www.englishlanguage.pro.br> (take a look if you want friends)

EduardoM: I'll be broadcasting my class at <http://www.shareitnow.com/eduardotheteacher@terra.com.br>

LindaU: Thank you. I'd like to start with some common definitions. Please take a look at <http://www.garlic.com/~lullah/gpbl/topic1/t1read1.html> for a definition of global literacy

LindaU: After reading this please answer, from your point of view: What should our role of educators be in educating our students to be productive members of a global economy?

BJB2: first role should be for our students to learn global literacy, I would assume

LindaU: Tell us more about you assumption.. Why do you think this?

BJB2 . o O (or even just the basics of the 4 literacies)

EduardoM left the room.

BJB2: if a student is unable to understand and value themself..

LindaU: Which do you see as the most important?

BJB2: ohhh....

BJB2 thinks

BJB2: I think cultural literacy is the most important, but probably personal literacy should be first

LindaU: Okay. hmm.. Jeff and Eduardo left.. Now what?

BJB2: then social literacy

JeffC joined the room.

LindaU: I agree with you about cultural literacy.

BJB2 smiles...I'm an eager student, Linda!

BJB2: but without personal literacy, is it possible to have cultural literacy?

LindaU: Jeff what do you think..

BJB2: or social literacy?

JeffC: I was spending time reading the disadvantages of GPBL

BJB2: <http://www.garlic.com/~lullah/gpbl/topic1/t1read1.html>

JeffC: I think all the literacies are intertwined... not to mention computer literacy

LindaU: Jeff, I'd planned some NCLB stuff.. If Eduardo isn't coming back I'll get into it.. but I don't think it is appropriate for someone outside the U.S.

JeffC: I think that getting students to work with those from other cultures is *critical* for the 21st century.

LindaU: Good point.. what about the SCANS skills, how have we done with those (they are about 12 or more years old now).

JeffC: America has truly been isolationist, imperialist, chauvinist, and corporate capitalist for so long that we not only don't appreciate cultures outside of our own, we have virtually no clue or ever acknowledge their existence.

JeffC: Unless someone blows up Americans with a car bomb there.

BJB2: blech...I don't think we've done well with the scans skills at all

JeffC: I'm happy to stick with this... it's just the three of us.

LindaU smiles knowingly

BJB2: and we're making it worse by removing arts and music from the schools

LindaU: Okay.. so let's take a look at all sides, though

LindaU: I agree BJ.. this is one of my mantras..

LindaU: Mark Standley, co-author of Global Project Based Learning in the Classroom by Visions Technology Press defines GPBL as: Diversity in language and culture among students and staff can be either a challenge or opportunity. Global project-based learning

is a model for working with diverse students to utilize the differences into distinct learning advantages. Whether the projects include local populations or working to include students from other countries, global project-based learning provides concrete techniques for valuing diversity, integrating technology in project-based learning, and growing community support at schools.

LindaU: What do you think about Mark Standley's definition?

JeffC: I don't think it's either or

JeffC: I think that GPBL is **always** a challenge **and** an opportunity.

LindaU: Okay... in what ways?

JeffC: I also think that it pays to get involved with projects run by someone who has experience doing it... become part of a global team rather than trying to do it yourself.

JeffC: Well... the challenge for the most part is extending a lesson over time, utilizing tech (and whatever else). Most students see an assignment, do it (or don't) and then are done with it.

JeffC: GPBL stretches out over time... months... maybe the whole school year.

LindaU: I'd agree with you in the beginning... but then I'd like to see experienced GPBL teachers design their own projects with their own partners.

LindaU: Yes, I've done multiple year projects

JeffC: Indeed, I can see projects extending past the school year, if students and their teacher are interested in continuing communication/collaboration with those they've met.

JeffC: As you say... it's not something that you can start easily at first... and yes... with experience it becomes easier.

JeffC: But all of this is challenging... another challenge is for the poor teacher to find a box to check when aligning to standards.

LindaU: Okay... let's throw NCLB into the mix here.. Let's go to the source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/education/> and consider--What are the positive features of NCLB that will give students the opportunity to become viable citizens of a global economy?

JeffC: Uh... where's the "kids are learning in a new and interesting way, not only about other cultures but how to turn learning on its ear."

LindaU: So.. is NCLB closing the achievement gap.. are we producing better math/science students because of it?

JeffC: no... next question?

LindaU: It would be fun to have a varied audience for this one.. but I had to be (to quote Fox news) "fair and balanced" tee hee

BJB2 wonders if this is not true, where the statistics came from?

JeffC: standards suck... they are so low... kids aren't even beginning to learn in 4th grade what I was learning in 2nd... and yet everyone seems to be going blithely along with it.

JeffC: oh... they raise test scores by lowering the bar.

LindaU: Good point.. where do the statistics come from and what do they really mean?

JeffC: basically... make standards low enough so that everyone can pass.

JeffC: and be sure that you spend a lot more time teaching to tests during the year.

BJB2: is this happening in EVERY school?

BJB2: haven't we traditionally 'taught to the test'?

LindaU: For example, I evaluate our programs at our center, but I report the good stuff to our donors and use the needs to be better stuff for our real program evaluation.

JeffC: of course, when the last test is done, the kids will completely tune out of anything that's going on in school, because they've been brainwa... uh... progra... shown that tests are the only things that matter in education.

JeffC: I very rarely gave tests.

LindaU: And is teaching to the test really teaching what the kids need to be true participants in a global economy

LindaU: But you know they give these test for a variety of certifications.. Civil service, real estate, teaching credentials, etc.

BJB2: ahhh...but that is a totally different topic. That is reforming education itself and changing the way teachers teach

LindaU: Is it really different.. Isn't reforming education and changing the way we teach really part of the same topic?

BJB2: I wish you would participate in one of Bill Hilton's discussions on environmental science.

LindaU: Tell me more about Bill Hilton

BJB2: most of his participants are new teachers. He leads the discussion in a Socratic manner

LindaU: I like that.

JeffC: it's too late to reform... it needs to be revolutionized

JeffC: virtual charter schools... wave of the future

BJB2: and the new teachers really struggle to understand

LindaU: reform vs revolution Interesting thoughts.. change vs totally new

LindaU: Poor new teachers haven't really had a chance to really teach.. in my opinion.. we are losing them all too rapidly.

LindaU: Okay, let's take a look at CSAP: No black and white issue: Tests hold schools accountable for learning, but critics complain program wastes time, money

LindaU: http://www.susanohanian.org/show_nclb_news.html?id=620

BJB2: Bill's site is at <http://www.hiltonpond.org>

JeffC: Is kind of disappointed that the feds didn't put up links to the teacher of the year's webpage (as well as all the nominees).

JeffC: assuming of course that they have one.

LindaU: Hmmmm...

LindaU: I found the interesting part in this article (the link I put up) to be: CSAP critics point to the nearly \$16 million spent to administer the test every year and the money Colorado could lose in Title I funding, which goes to schools that serve high concentrations of low-income students, if the state assessment folded.

LindaU: District 51 officials stress CSAP has nothing to do with money and everything to do with gauging academic growth. The statewide exam is one of several measures the district uses to plot the performance of students and schools. If CSAP went away, the district wouldn't stop assessing how much students have learned.

LindaU: Money vs. assessing student learning.. interesting, no?

BJB2: Schools push for participation because students who don't take the exams hurt a school's overall rating. Children who miss the test receive a "zero" grade under current law. Those zeros are figured into a school's average and become part of its School Accountability Report, a report card compiled annually for each school by the Colorado Department of Education.

BJB2: they're doing the same thing with special ed students

LindaU: Ohanian has lots more articles. Here's another:
http://www.susanohanian.org/show_nclb_stories.html?id=79 with a title I love.

BJB2: schools don't want the sped scores included

LindaU: Ah yes, I had to test the h--- out of my special ed students even before NCLB.

CarlJW joined the room.

BJB2: hi, Carl. Welcome

LindaU: To me testing one on one with a student can give meaningful information.. but not so much from the test scores as from observation of how the student goes about approaching the testing.

LindaU: Hi Carl... We are reviewing NCLB and GPBL--their compatibility or not and their ability to help students survive as adults in a global economy.

BJB2 nods. And assessment doesn't need to be a 'test' as Jeff mentioned

JeffC: testing to me focuses on short term memory...

LindaU: Feel free to introduce yourself and give any opinions

LindaU thinks.. hmmm multiple forms of assessment.. where have I heard that before...

CarlJW: Hi - is this an online session or just informal conversation. I was just exploring.

JeffC: and so what... you get a grade... does that help next year's teacher other than to say "oh... he got an A last year, that will help me give him a grade this year?" NO... you want authentic and meaningful assessment... then get with the program and get virtual portfolios going!

JeffC: Stick around Carl

LindaU: I've been guiding Jeff and BJ though some discussion question and web sites.. feel free to join us...

JeffC: We're talking about Global Project Based Learning and trashing NCLB at the same time.

LindaU: and they've been pulling me in their directions as well...;-)

JeffC: I'll put up those links for you in a sec Carl...

JeffC: Yeah... we tried to pull her to Sizzler a little while ago.

CarlJW: At any particular level - I'm elementary special ed

JeffC: http://www.susanohanian.org/show_nclb_stories.html?id=79

LindaU: First two questions.. and wow.. you just hit the special ed part of the discussion:
1. What should our role of educators be in educating our students to be productive members of a global economy?

LindaU: 2. What are the positive feature of NCLB that will give students the opportunity to become viable citizens of a global economy

JeffC: http://www.susanohanian.org/show_nclb_news.html?id=620

LindaU: BTW Carl, I'm a former Special Ed teacher

BJB2 . o O (kind of a volatile issue, Carl...not for the faint of heart)

LindaU: Okay... here is an article that hits home.. Perhaps you've noticed the growth of NCLB businesses in your area. I certainly have:
<http://www.cnn.com/2006/EDUCATION/04/21/no.child.vendors.ap/>

LindaU: Who is making money off of this law?

CarlJW: As a special ed teacher we have to constantly do assessment upon assessment - takes us away from instruction to much - so much accountability with NCLB and not a lot of help - plus all the companies are gearing to parents and giving them false expectation

CarlJW: or putting less responsibility on them and more on us

LindaU: Carl, do your students have to take all the NCLB required tests?

LindaU: on top of special ed required testing?

CarlJW: Yes, with accommodations as dictated by the IEP. Plus our district has a lot of district required assessments that we need to give - all totaled - about 10 days a year of testing.

LindaU: Okay.. let's have some fun.. I love this one: <http://www.trelease-on-reading.com/no-dentist.html> Enjoy!

LindaU: Carl, How does this affect your students' perceptions of themselves?

BJB2 chuckles. Good one, Linda

BJB2 . o O (totally defeats our students)

LindaU: Okay Jeff.. this one is for you <http://nochildleft.com/>

BJB2 . o O (btw, Jim Trelease is very cool)

CarlJW: the more you test them the more they think something is wrong with themselves. Also - when you have to give them test instruments at their grade level instead of their instructional level - it's very overwhelming for them and they give up right away

LindaU: Yes the no dentist thing really puts this into perspective.

LindaU: Exactly Carl,, Just what are we really doing to kids, especially special ed, ELL, etc.

LindaU: Here's another site about NCLB "issues":
<http://nochildleft.com/2003/jancov03.html#index>

CarlJW: my own feeling is that we should do more real life outcome based assessments that are documented in a portfolio

LindaU: This is a pdf.. It's long.. don't read it now, but save it for bathroom readingL No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Project GRAD Project Graduation Really ... size, team approach to teaching, and school-based learning that also has ...

LindaU: www.gao.gov/new.items/d05879.pdf

SusanR pops in to catch the tail end of the discussion

LindaU: Hi Susan..

LindaU: You'll need to get the transcript.

BJB2 nods to Sue. We're going to have to end soon, Linda. Sorry

BJB2 . o O (unless you all want to continue, which you are welcome to do)

BJB2: but Faculty Resistance to Online Learning is starting in a minute

CarlJW: the upcoming one sounds good - do I just stay here or go to a different site

LindaU: Two more quick sites

LindaU: Save them to digest later

BJB2: I'll announce, Carl

LindaU: Another Ohanian article;

http://www.susanohanian.org/show_nclb_outrages.html?id=1052

JeffC: pretty tricky trying to get us to read that pdf in the bathroom Linda... I saw that Seinfeld episode... once you take reading material in the bathroom you have to buy it!

BJB2: Linda's GPBL discussion for May is on Online Collaboration Tools

SusanR: Thanks Linda

BJB2 . o O (not nearly so controversial)

LindaU: and Gwen Solomon (TEch and Learning)'s attempt to bring PBL and NCLB together: <http://webpages.charter.net/jklock/pbl.htm>

JeffC: Did she have much luck Linda?

BJB2: Thanks, Linda. Lots of food for thought.

LindaU: It's a hot button topic for sure...

LindaU: Next month we'll explore online tools that can support GPBL.

LindaU: Check out the article Jeff...It's interesting.

LindaU: Any final comments?

SusanR: any sites I missed on PBL that I missed, Linda

LindaU: You missed more on NCLB. I think the PBL one's you've seen before in other discussions.

SusanR: ok.

SusanR: will check out the transcripts

LindaU: Good idea.