

Title of Session: Global Project Based Learning - Global Marketplace

Moderator: Linda Ullah

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Room: GPBL Group

BJB2: welcome, Eduardo!

LindaU: Hi Eduardo.. We are about ready to get started

EduardoHM: hello

EduardoHM: ok

BJB2: here for Global Project Based Learning?

EduardoHM: yes

BJB2: great.

BJB2: a reminder, if you are new to Tapped In, to go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat window...

BJB2: and click on Detach

BJB2: Eduardo, we usually start the Tapped In discussions with introductions

BJB2: please tell us where you are located and what interests you in this discussion

BJB2: I teach remedial communication in Pennsylvania

BJB2: and am always interested in ways to help my students learn about the 'real' world

LindaU: I'm Linda Ullah. I'm a school development coach for the New Technology Foundation. My passion is Global Project Based Learning and helping teachers and students work together using Web tools to improve the students understanding of each other and the world.

EduardoHM: I am a teacher assistant for elementary school 2nd grade.

LindaU: Tell us what interested you about this topic.

EduardoHM: I hope to start teaching in August, and I am interesting in learning from people who have been teaching before

MarleneK joined the room.

LindaU: Fantastic... do you think you'll be teaching 2nd grade?

LindaU: Hi Marlene.

BJB2: good for you, Eduardo! You'll find that Linda is going to give you some excellent tools to put into your bag of tricks

EduardoHM: I hope so, I really like it

BJB2 hugs Marlene

LindaU: We just got started.

MarleneK: Hi Linda, nice to see you again, we met in the late 1990's

LindaU: Yes

LindaU: The first question tonight is how do you see the Global Market Place generating a need for our students to learn differently from the traditional ways?

LindaU: What are the issues that are relevant to our instructional practice?

BJB2: sensitivity to cultural diversity?

LindaU: Definitely.. and....

EduardoHM: access to information

LindaU: excellent... and

BJB2: oh, good, Eduardo

BJB2: communication skills?

LindaU: think beyond what we normally think of when we talk about connecting students globally

LindaU: yes.. and...

EduardoHM: not all students have access to technology

LindaU: Very good point...

LindaU: The playing field is not equal.

LindaU: Okay.. let's think in economic terms for a moment....

LindaU: Think about the world our students will inherit. How will the global economy, the emergence of India and China (and potential other nations) have on this world? What skill will our students need to have to live and work in this world?

LindaU: How will this affect the jobs that will be available for our students and their families?

BJB2: our students and their families will be competing for jobs with people in Asia

EduardoHM: the key will be literacy

LindaU: What kind of jobs?

LindaU: Good point.. tell me more about literacy

EduardoHM: we have to prepare the students to compete

LindaU: What does this preparation look like?

BJB2: technology based jobs that allow individuals to work for companies that may be an ocean away

EduardoHM: The younger the student is exposed to what is out there, they will have an idea what they will have to do to success.

LindaU: yes.. and

BJB2 . o O (Tom Friedman was a keynote speaker at the Math conference that David Weksler is at)

MarleneK: We have to be aware of how cultural values impact economic traits.

LindaU: true Eduardo

EduardoHM: always to be one step ahead

LindaU: Ah.. BJ read my mind with where I'm going here..

BJB2 wonders if Eduardo has read The World is Flat by Tom Friedman?

EduardoHM: no

BJB2: strongly recommend that you do!

LindaU: okay.. Take a look at this article (Scroll down to read the interview with Tom Friedman: <http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/13.05/friedman.html>)

EduardoHM: ok, I will look for it

LindaU: This a required read for everyone today.

JeffC: interesting topic...

JeffC: hey... nobody said there was going to be a test!

LindaU: no test.. Jeff... you know me better than that.. just passion..

BJB2 thinks Jeff has some passion re the topic also

LindaU: When you are done reading... How does a flat world influence the way we must teach?

MarleneK: I watched a news report that documents the life of a young Indian family. She worked at night at a call center and he during the day.. they rarely saw each other, but they were willing to sacrifice the time together now, for a better future

LindaU: How is this different than 2 working parents in the U.S.?

LindaU: Okay, when you think about it, can we afford to not connect our students with students in other parts of the world?

MarleneK: The reason why I brought it up was because the company that they were working for, was based in the US and they couldn't find the workers to deal with it in the US

LindaU: Ah.. you are getting somewhere.

LindaU: There are huge issues here about immigration and jobs.. How does this affect education?

LindaU: here.

MarleneK: In my opinion it comes down to the difference in values between the gimme gimme generation of youth, and the differences in work ethics

EduardoHM: The question will be How willing are we to sacrifice family for future?

LindaU: hmmm interesting question.

LindaU: good point Marlene.

LindaU: What are the issues in the Global Marketplace that we tend to avoid, but are so critical for us to deal with educationally?

MarleneK: In the global market we are competing against varying work ethics of other cultures

LindaU: Good point.. what are those varying work ethics.. some of which are good and some really disgustingly horrible.

MarleneK: The willingness to take the so called "dirty jobs"

JeffC: there are many questions... will "capitalism" and "competition" be supplanted by "communism" and the need for "cooperation?" India and China may compete, but is that indeed the true future direction of globalization? Can we have compassionate corporations who actually *care* about their employees? McDonalds was brought up as a leveler... it is one company whose exploitation of its workers are notorious. Will they begin providing health care and living wages for their long term employees? Or will they continue to seek to maximize profits for shareholders by constantly driving back wages to minimum wage?

EduardoHM: Not only ethics, but also policies.

JeffC: exactly Eduardo... personally... I really don't see corporations becoming compassionate or steering away from short term profits... let alone having long term goals of anything other than pleasing shareholders. can globalization bring about a revolution of human compassion?

LindaU: Fantastic comments.. keep going.

MarleneK: Speaking of McD, they just paid the airfare for 160 Mexicans to come to Alberta to be employed throughout the province.

JeffC: how magnanimous of them </sarcasm>

MarleneK grins.

LindaU: okay... let's really get down and dirty.. take a look at: <http://www.humantrafficking.org/publications/373> and react to this "marketplace."

JeffC: they also cut back the wages of employees here to minimum (who had worked there for years) because the minimum wage went up in Oregon.

LindaU: and this article: <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/slavery1.html>

JeffC believes that the "marketplace" is driven by the ad execs along the lines of the old Kaiser motto "create a need and fill it." can we move away from rampant consumerism? can we embrace the cultures who now threaten to compete with us economically? i'm reminded of lines from the movie "Three Days of the Condor": Not now — then! Ask 'em when they're running out. Ask 'em when there's no heat in their homes and they're cold. Ask 'em when their engines stop. Ask 'em when people who have never known hunger start going hungry. You wanna know something? They won't want us to ask 'em. They'll just want us to get it for 'em!

JeffC has to run off to rehearsal... hence the long passages to ponder.

LindaU: Great passages to ponder.

JeffC waves bye for now... will read the transcript later.

BJB2 . o O (I did mention Jeff's passion earlier)

MarleneK: Here is one other ugly one.. trafficking of humans for organ donation.

LindaU: yes, this is another horrible global issue. How to we educate our students so these kind of things can end.

JeffC: and ponder this... we are so backwards in America regarding the use of the net that blogs are blocked in schools... not to mention del.icio.us and just about anything that smacks of collaboration... all because of paranoia surrounding cyberpredators, etc. ... how are we going to even begin to "compete" when we have 19th century schools even if the tech is 21st century?

JeffC: tear down the antiquated and military style structure of schools and start a string of cyberschools on an international scale... there... that's my answer! bye for now!

JeffC is afk

LindaU: How do we get our students to help children in other countries.. Child soldiers, child sex slaves, orphans of HIV, orphans of war, etc.

MarleneK: Jeff is so right, the more global interaction kids get the better and I have seen a difference in kids when that happens

LindaU: Exactly.

MarleneK: Unfortunately kids in those situations frequently don't have computer and internet access

BJB2: what about the illegals that are smuggled into the US and forced to work to 'repay' the costs of transporting them to the land of the free?

EduardoHM: Kids don't have a clue about different cultures in other countries.

BJB2 . o O (or the different cultures in their own country)

MarleneK: Good point BJ

EduardoHM: exactly

LindaU: indentured servants brought to the US to work in restaurants, or as nanny's etc who are locked into their rooms at night by their employers.

BJB2 nods

EduardoHM: they are being treated as slaves

MarleneK nods.

LindaU: Back to Eduardo's comment about how other people in the world live. Do you all know Peter Menzel's photography?

EduardoHM: I don't

LindaU: Take a look at <http://www.menzelphoto.com/gallery/mw.htm>

LindaU: The book has even more pictures.. but these photos show how people in different places live.

BJB2: Menzel's books on the Material World are great

LindaU: This weekend the World Affairs Challenge is going on in San Francisco:
<http://www.du.edu/worldaffairschallenge/>

MarleneK: There was a video on Clipmarks that showed the ordinary people pictures of Iran, I shared it with a grade 6 class that I was visiting.. and they said.. they are just like us.

MarleneK: I was kinda like.. what did you expect them to be?

LindaU: Students are exploring a variety of topics related to the global marketplace and doing presentations (very creative ones)...in a competition. Some of these topics are critical topics like genocide, human trafficking, sex slavery, war, etc..

BJB2: here's the answer to your first question, Linda: * sharpen research and presentation skills

BJB2: * learn to formulate and defend an argument

BJB2: * develop leadership and negotiation skills, and

BJB2: * collaborate to propose viable solutions to real-world problems

LindaU: Good point Marlene.. people are people... we all love our children, work to survive, etc...

LindaU: Thank you BJ.. we MUST help our students to collaborate to solve world problems.

BJB2: that was copied from the page you just showed us

EduardoHM: I liked the website

LindaU: Yes.. that is the point... These kind of projects are critical in my opinion.

LindaU: Most U. S. Kids are unaware of how children (and adults) in other parts of the world survive.

EduardoHM: this is a great website to share with the students

MarleneK nods.

LindaU: yes... Check out http://www.lullah.com/Global_Marketplace.htm

LindaU: These are resources I found to help one of the schools participating in this competition. I noticed that some of the links are no longer working (since January when I prepared the site).

LindaU: But you'll find some hard topics and great resources for projects with older kids.

MarleneK: Thanks Linda that list looks extensive!

LindaU: It is based on the World Affairs Challenge topics.

LindaU: Yes, I wanted the kids to have great resources for their research.

LindaU: More next month... on this topic.. this is just the tip of the iceberg.

MarleneK nods.

BJB2: The next GPBL discussion is April 26

LindaU: Come back and be prepared to suggest global project ideas to address these issues.

BJB2: Thanks, Linda, for leading the discussion!

MarleneK: Thank you Linda for the great presentation.

LindaU: Thank you all for coming and being interested in this topic..

BJB2 waves goodnight

LindaU: good night all.