

Title of Session: Global Project Based Learning

Moderator: Linda Ullah

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LindaU: Hi everyone. I'm Linda Ullah. I work as a school development coach for New Tech High Schools in North Carolina. My passion is helping teachers and their students with multi-school, multi-national collaborative projects.

LindaU: Tell us who you are, what you do, and what you interest/experiences is with Global PBL

BJB2 loves passionate educators ;-)

ElizabetGu: Hello everyone, I'm a pre-service teacher at the University of Houston, in Houston, TX

BJB2: I'm in Pennsylvania and enjoy seeing the resources and ideas Linda shares

JeffC waves... runs out the door to get food for the kids... lurks... and offers <http://www.takingitglobal.org> and <http://www.nabuur.com> for your perusal... oh... I'm in Oregon, on Helpdesk here, single dad with three hungry kids.

BeverlyD: Hi I'm Beverly. I'm a first timer MA student. No experience with Global Learning but very interested

LaelL: I am an English teacher in CA who is just getting my feet wet with creating online curriculum for high schoolers

LindaU: Okay, let's start with some basics this month.

LindaU: Let's start with what you know about Global PBL. What do you think Global PBL is all about?

ElizabetGu: helping

LaelL: I am not sure; need clarification

BeverlyD: not sure

LindaU: Hi Sue and Jeff... Please introduce yourselves.

LindaU: We are starting with a Know/need to know list.. So also tell us what you think

Global PBL means to you.

JeffRu: I'm Jeff Rudisill, student in the grad program at Azuza Pacific, second semester.

BeverlyD: Hi Jeff

LindaU: Looks like this a new concept to most of you... Is that right?

BeverlyD: yes

JeffRu: Hi Bev. Yes. Now

LindaU: What do you need to know/want to know about global PBL?

JeffRu: that's new

BeverlyD: PBL?

LindaU: Project based learning

BeverlyD: ok, thanks

SusanR: Sorry I am back. Had to take a phone call.

SusanR: K to 3+ educator from Ontario, Canada

LindaU: Have any of you ever used or been part of project based learning as a student?

JeffRu: Neg

BeverlyD: Sure

ElizabetGu: Is global PBL a series of projects designed to learn from and help people in need?

LindaU: Beverly tell us about your experience with project-based learning (PBL)

LindaU: It could be Elizabeth.

BeverlyD: I'm a technology teacher and all of our curriculum is project based. Students are creating projects.

LindaU: I think I'd like to start with what PBL is, then help you all see the options/possibilities for global and/or multi-classroom, multi-school projects

LindaU: Okay--students creating projects.. Sounds like fluff???

BeverlyD: explain

LindaU: PBL is an instructional method that starts with your standards, but it causes you to relate standards to real world problems or situations.

BeverlyD: okay, like human rights watch

LindaU: All too often people think of "projects" as an add on or a thing nice to do.. or busy work to be done at home and bring the products in to decorate the classroom or library--This is NOT project-based learning.

Laell: could you give me a specific example of a project?

LindaU: Project based learning is tied to academic achievement (

LindaU: Yes...

LindaU: but first lets take some time to understand what PBL is. so you will have a good context

BeverlyD: standards, instruction, project

BeverlyD: right

LindaU: In PBL you set up a real world scenario or problem based on your content standards that requires students to use higher order thinking skills to create a product that demonstrates what they have learned.

ElizabetGu: to better understand I read a little in this website..

<http://www.edutopia.org/projectbasedlearning>

LindaU: Projects can be short and targeted or long and very complex.

LindaU: Edutopia has great PBL resources...

ElizabetGu: yes!!

BeverlyD: okay, now I understand

BeverlyD: very interesting

SusanR . o O (glad to see student-driven projects being used at the kindergarten level)

LindaU: In PBL you start with an entry document that describes what the project is about, give an good essential question to get students really hooked, and gives enough

breadcrumbs (Think Hansel and Gretel) to lead students to ask good questions (need to know) about what they need to do to create their final product.

LindaU: All instruction is taught within the context of the project.

LindaU: We call this scaffolding.

LindaU: Often teachers will over the content pieces as workshops for the students who need to know... Remember within a class you have students with all different levels of learning.

LindaU: The role of the teachers changes to that of a coach or a guide.

LindaU: Generally students work in collaborative groups..

LindaU: Okay... Let's take a look at a project or two.

LaelL: okay cool

ElizabetGu: yess!!

LindaU: Just give me a minute.

LindaU: This is an elementary school project called Where Will You Live: <http://www.gen.bham.wednet.edu/tribe1.htm>

LindaU: Take some time to explore how this particular project is organized.

BJB2: this looks like a webquest, Linda

LindaU: It is not a global project or multi-classroom project the way it is set up.

LindaU this BJ is observant.

LindaU: WebQuests are projects...

BeverlyD did not know that either

BJB2 . o O (you learn a lot when you participate in TI discussions!)

LindaU: What did you notice about the structure of this project?

LindaU: How is it organized?

BeverlyD: I'm guessing that the project is powerpoint. Standards, assessment, organizer, project?

ElizabetGu: the tribe project is neat

BJB2: research based information gathering

LaelL: I like this project; students get choice and they can choose what they are working on

LindaU: PowerPoint is a possible project product..

LaelL: and they get to work collaboratively with others

LindaU: Research based... good. Collaborative--yes

ElizabetGu: collaboration makes a difference'

LindaU: What problem were the students asked to solve?

BeverlyD: Where they will live

LindaU: Ah..student choice... (students have control over some aspects of the project...hmm

ElizabetGu: back in the year 1800

LindaU: So it is based on the content that must be taught... Right?

LaelL: students have to research the Native Americans

LaelL: yes

LindaU: It sets up an engaging question that gets students excited...

LindaU: The students must create a final product

ElizabetGu: that better than the teacher going up in front of the class teaching a lesson about native Americans..

LindaU: the teacher has scaffolded the project to help guide the students so the "get" the content...

LindaU: the students do the research and share what they are learning with each other.

ElizabetGu: that's awesome, I like that style of learning

LindaU: the students become engaged and active learners.

ElizabetGu: had never really thought about that because I haven't really seen projects like that in the placements I have been in

LindaU: yes, it's exciting..

LindaU: Okay... here's a multi-school, multi grade level project

ElizabetGu: doing their own research and learning from each other is what makes them active learners..right?

LindaU: <http://www.ourenvironmentproject.org/>

LindaU: yes, Elizabeth..

LindaU: Take a look at the Environmental Concerns in the Community Project and compare it's structure to that of the Where Will We Live Project.

LindaU: Be sure to look at the project plan link: <http://my-ecoach.com/online/teacherguide.php?projectid=5240>

LaelL: I like this; students get to work with other students from different schools

LindaU: Exactly Lael.

LindaU: Although it is very different in many ways.. what does it have in common with the other project?

LaelL: Wow I really like these projects

LaelL: the students are working together to find their own research and come up with conclusions

ElizabetGu: they are very interesting!!

BeverlyD: Yea, nice projects.

LindaU: good Lael.. student collaboration

LindaU: what else do the projects have in common?

BJB2: and research

LindaU: good.. students have to conduct research

ElizabetGu: collaboration

LindaU: yes.. collaboration..

ElizabetGu: oh that was said all ready

LindaU: what else.

BJB2: the second group had to decide if there actually was a problem

BJB2: and then find solutions

LindaU: Is there academic rigor (appropriate to grade levels) and content standards?

LindaU: Yes.. problem solving

BJB2: yes to academic rigor and content standards

LindaU: student decision making..

BJB2: . o O (lots of language arts activities)

LindaU: Do you see the real-world connections in these projects?

LindaU: Language arts.. yes..but do you see multi-content areas, too?

LindaU: cross-curricular

ElizabetGu: yes they are researching about their own community

LindaU: You all are getting it...

ElizabetGu: yes science, math, geography

LaelL: I like the cross curricular aspect too

LindaU: Okay.. next

project: http://www.stg.brown.edu/projects/WWII_Women/tocCS.html

LindaU: This one is a high school project.

LindaU: Look for what it has in common with the other projects

ElizabetGu: sorry I got a bit distracted reading the interviews

LindaU: It is engaging... No problems..

LindaU: Can you see the commonalities between these three projects?

ElizabetGu: they involve people in the community, the student's own family in this particular one

LindaU: good.. community involvement!

LindaU: connecting students to their families and to their communities.

LindaU: would you say that is a real-world connection/

Laell: yes definitely

Laell: and it will have a greater impression on the student

LindaU: Okay.. here's a 2nd grade project: <http://my-ecoach.com/online/teacherguide.php?projectid=5376>

LindaU: This one is a global-multi-national project.

LindaU: Again.. after you look it at let us know what it has in common with the other projects.

ElizabetGu: collaboration!!

ElizabetGu: there are various curriculum areas involved

LindaU: Good.. You are getting the pattern for successful PBL

ElizabetGu: the main thing is collaboration for learning!

Laell: My question is how do we find other teachers and classrooms that are willing to do projects like this with us?

LindaU: Exactly.. you start with your standards

LindaU: Okay.. here is a global-project resource list: <http://my-ecoach.com/online/webresourcelist.php?rlid=6499#3>

LindaU: It is one place to start looking.

Laell: so people on this list might be willing to collaborate with us?

LindaU: Here is another list: <http://www.nearctica.com/educate/multi.htm>

BeverlyD: Thanks, this is what I was hoping to get.

LindaU: There are organizations that help broker projects>

LindaU: These lists will help point you to those organizations.

LaelL: thanks

LindaU: Flat Stanley is another great project you can join:
<http://flatclassroomproject.wikispaces.com/>

ElizabetGu: I think that is something essential, finding people that are willing to collaborate with us

LaelL: I have heard of Flat Stanley before!

ElizabetGu: all these projects are wonderful to incorporate in any level

LaelL: It is a great idea for elementary students!

LindaU: The global nomads group is another good project organization: <http://gng.org/>

LindaU: One of my favorites is the Jason
Project: <http://www.jason.org/public/home.aspx>

LaelL: When I used to work at a pie shop, a customer came in and took pictures with Flat Stanley

LindaU: I took Flat Stanley to Bangladesh: <http://www.lullah.com/flatstanley/>

LaelL: awesome

LindaU: Acrossworlds help with projects designed to help emerging nations:
<http://www.acrossworld.com/>

LindaU: Any final thoughts before we go.. What are your next steps?

ElizabetGu: thank you so much for the wonderful links!!

BJB2 . o O (you can join Linda on March 27 for the next GPBL to share what you've done :-)

BeverlyD: I'll spend some time checking out these resources

LaelL: yes thank you for the great classroom ideas

LaelL: I am excited

LindaU love to see excited teachers and excited students!

BeverlyD: Thank you

BJB2: Thanks, Linda. Good discussion :-)

ElizabetGu: thanks, byee!!!

LaelL: thanks

BeverlyD: bye

LaelL: bye everyone

BJB2 waves goodnight

SusanR: Thanks Linda

LindaU: by and thank you.