COUNTDOWN TO PBL

FIRST STEPS FOR TEACHERS AND LEADERS

WITH DR. AMY BAEDER

THE PRINCIPAL CENTER
BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

In this webinar, we'll explore…

- How school leaders can prepare to implement PBL
- Where teachers can find inspiration for PBL units
- PBL product ideas for engaging, rigorous PBLs
- How to plan key moments in your PBL unit for maximum success
- How to connect PBL to personalized learning, SEL, and other initiatives
- Next steps you and your school can take

My Background

- Secondary Science & ELA Teacher, Seattle, WA
- Teacher Education Program, UW
- Consultant with Educurious
- Schools in AR, El Salvador, and across US
- Elementary Curriculum, Empatico

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

educurious
learning that connects

Empatico.

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING NETWORK

Who is with us today? Type your name, location, role, & what drew you to this webinar in the chat box!

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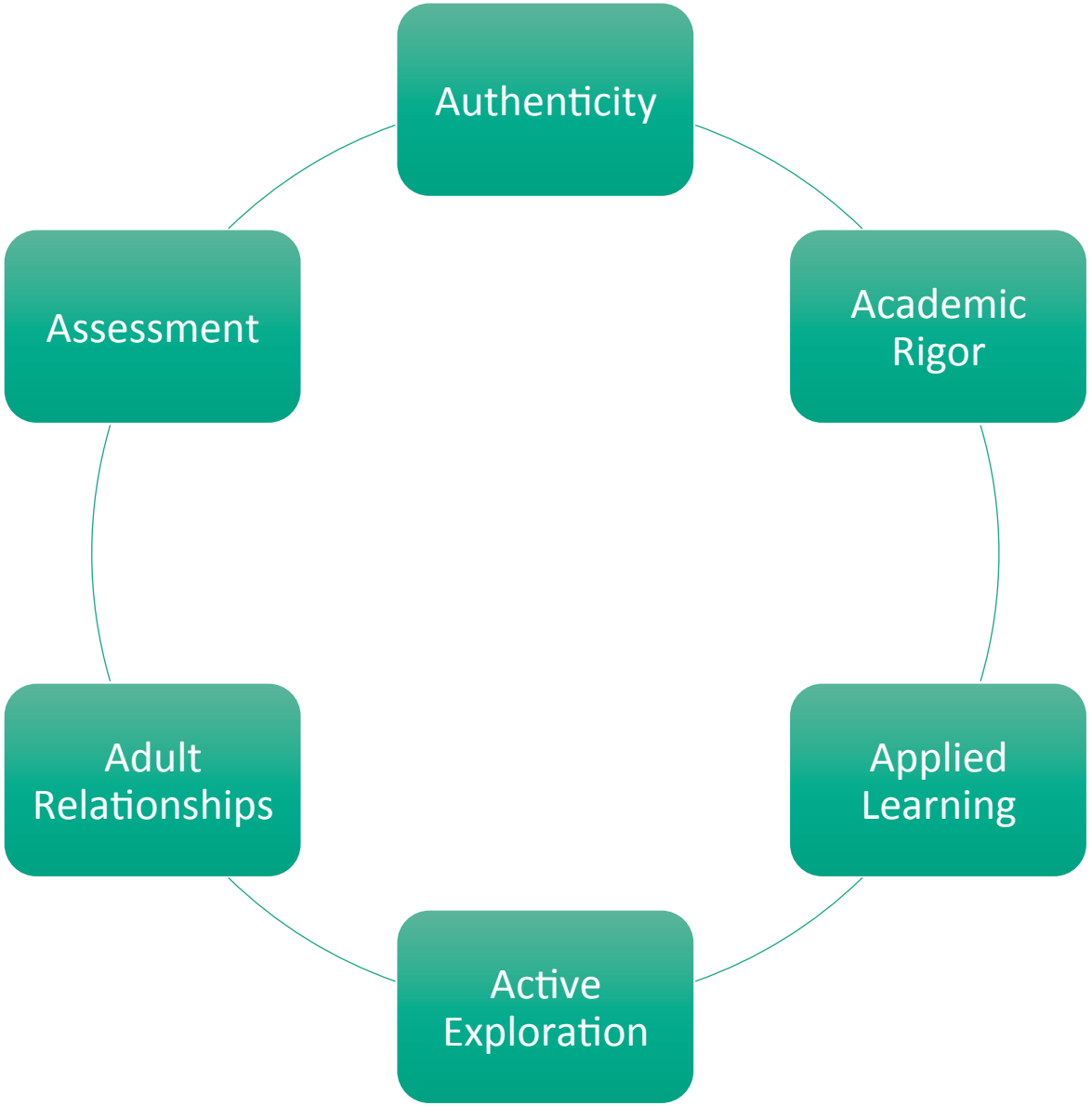
PBL Big Ideas: Review

- Content is taught through project
- PBL can be taught throughout the year, not just for special occasions
- PBL is for ALL learners
- PBL is based on standards or the skills, content, and knowledge you need to teach
- PBL engages all learners (and is more engaging for you!)
- Project is introduced from Day 1

6 As of PBL: Review

Adria Steinberg Real Learning, Real Work (1997)



PBL Review: Real-World & Authentic…

- Problem
- Product
- Audience
- Driving Question

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PBL Product Ideas and Examples

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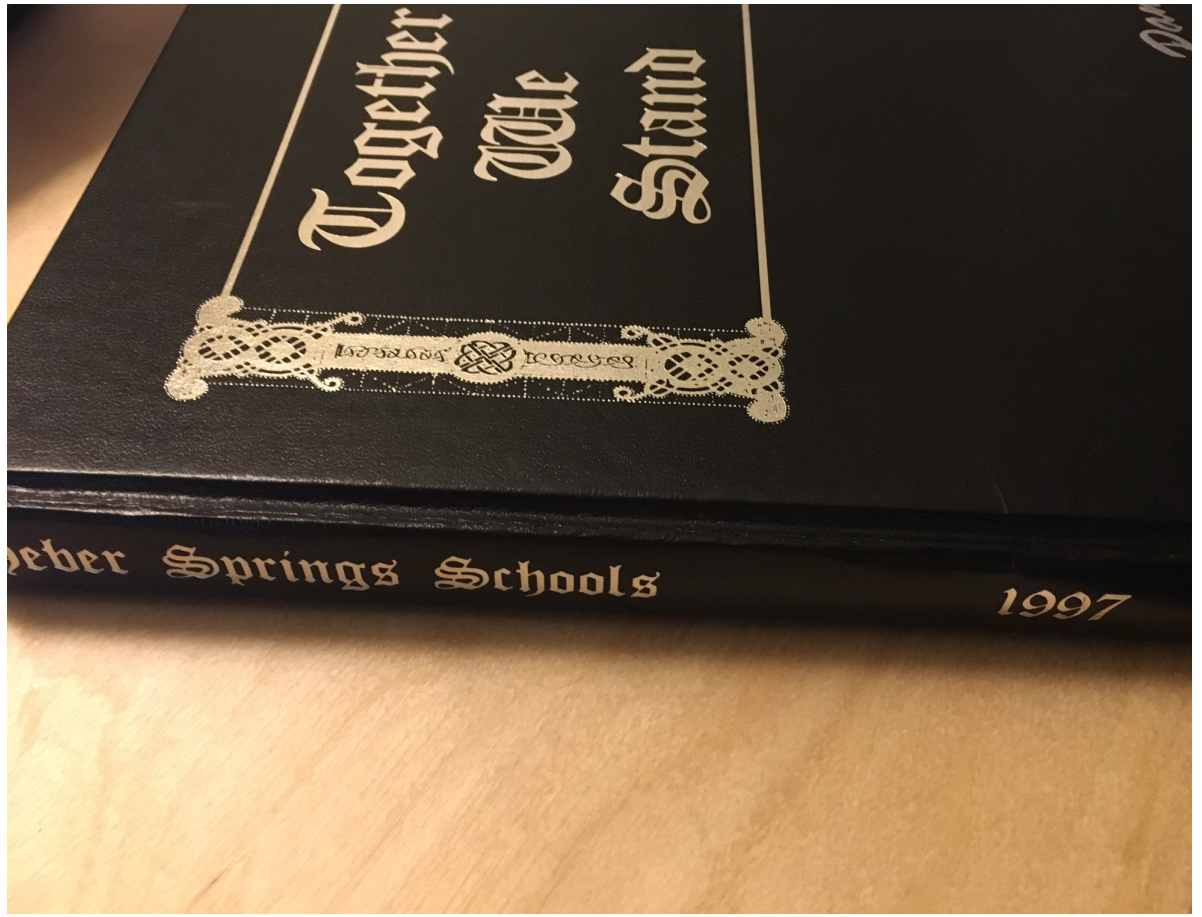
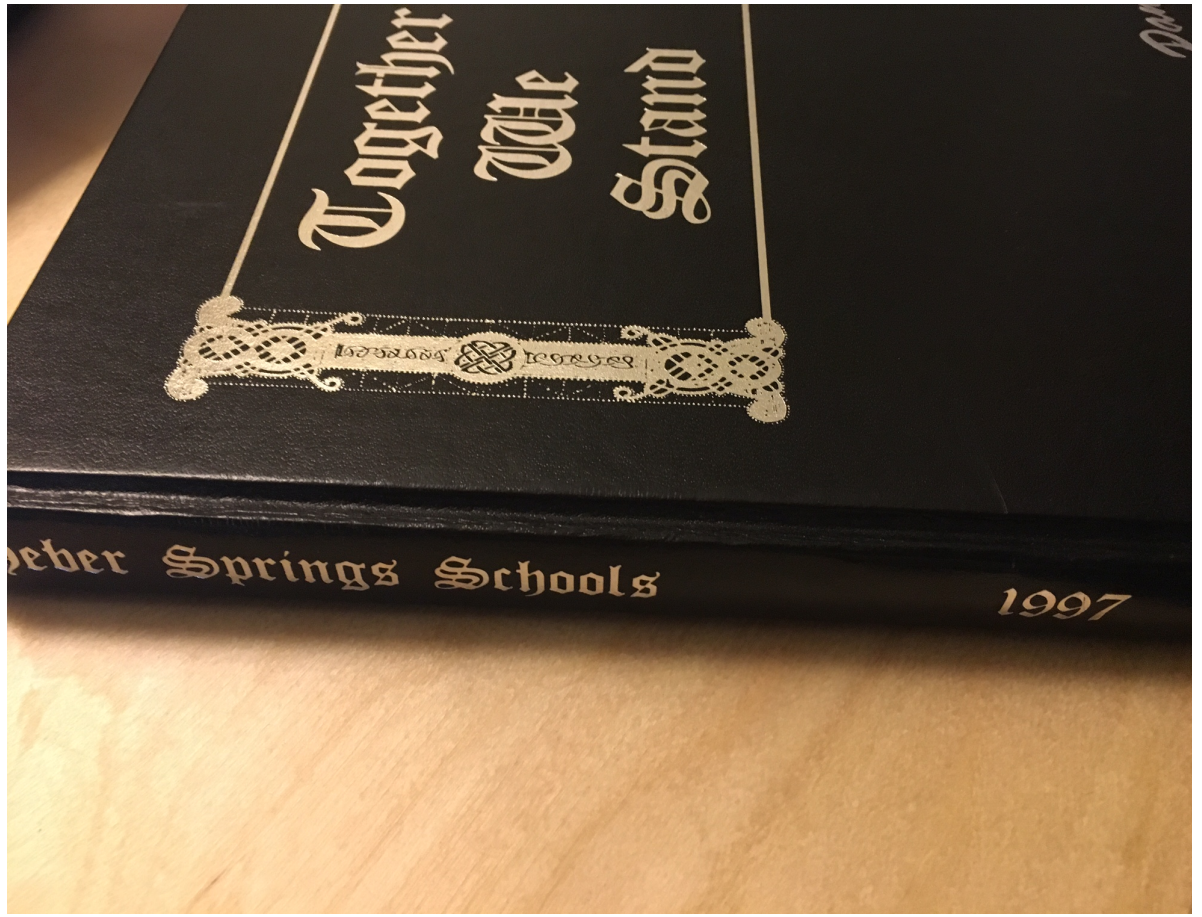
Yearbook Class: PBL in Plain Sight

How does the process of creating a yearbook show the elements of PBL?



Yearbook Class: PBL in Plain Sight

- Public Product
- Feedback Processes
- Collaborative
- Everyone has a role & responsibilities
- Authentic
- Deadlines and Checkpoints
- Active Exploration
- Experts & Adult Assistance
- Students use Skills, Concepts, & Knowledge



10 Product Ideas to Get You Started

1. Mini TED Talk to share learning/personal reflection re: a topic
2. Design Greeting Cards using LED lights & Circuits
3. “Shark Tank” pitch for a product or service
4. Application design to solve a problem
5. Design an inclusive playground that students w/disabilities can use, also
6. Documentary chronicling local history
7. Improved building design to withstand earthquakes
8. Design a pollinator-friendly school garden
9. Game design with 3D printed game pieces
10. Engineering solution to a problem arising from natural disasters

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Finding Inspiration for PBL Units

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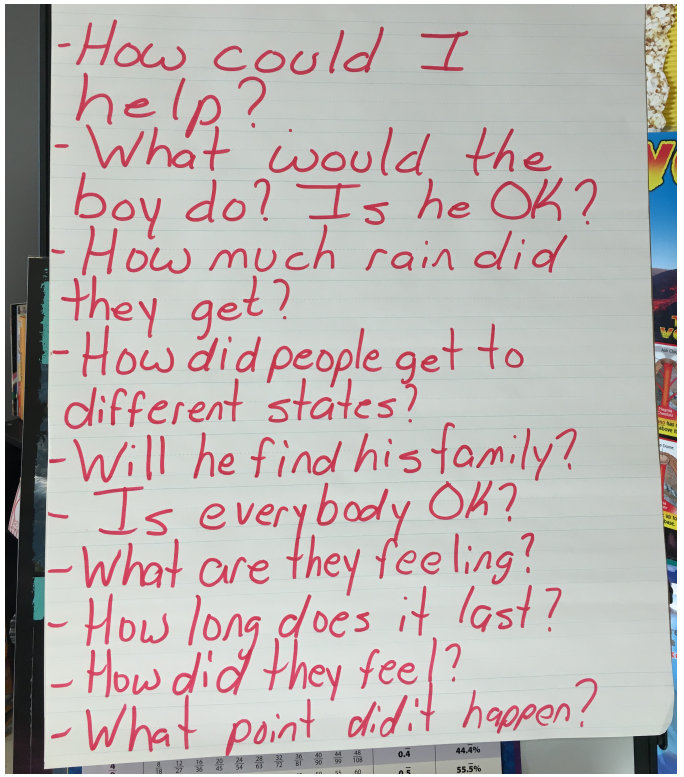
Designing a PBL: Many Starting Places

How do I start getting ideas for a PBL unit?

- Standards or Topics
- Student Interests
- Relevant, Real-World Problems
- Modify Existing Unit
- Skills, Concepts, Knowledge

What place-based problems, resources, and assets are there?

Interview community members to identify problems to be solved



Problems Relevant to Students' Lives or Interests

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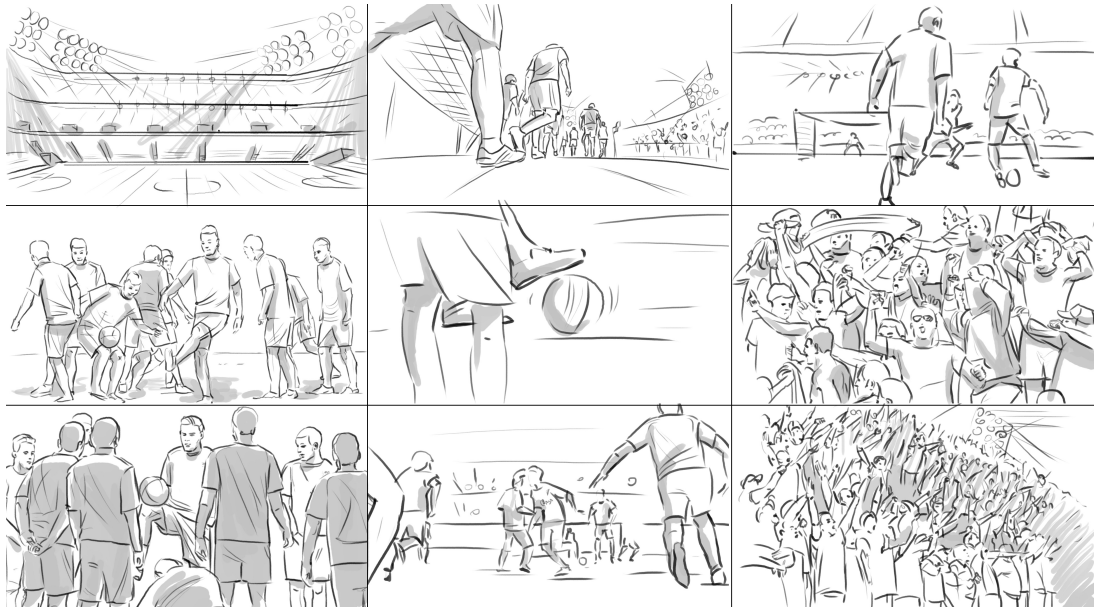
Identify authentic products from the discipline



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What real tools, tasks, & processes are used?

What realistic scenarios, simulations, or approximations can students engage in?

Interdisciplinary "Crime & Punishment" PBL

- Mock Crime Scene
- Mock Trial
- Examine Simulated Reports, Data, Evidence

Sending Treats to Astronauts: Rocket & Payload Redesign

- Clear Problem Stated
- Students examine real examples and constraints
- Students prototype and build model rockets

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What real problems exist in your community, the world, or students' lives?

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Example: Engaging our Elders

- Social Studies/Language Arts
- Authentic Problem: Elder Loneliness & Disconnectedness
- Students help produce a “StoryCorps”-like oral history through interviews and by recording from their phone

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Favorite Sources of Inspiration

- Citizen Science: National Geographic
- Newsela
- Survey students (Google Forms, Chart Paper Discussion Rounds, Post-Its)
- Real Contests & Competitions
- Client-identified problems
- Science Daily, NPR, other news sources

Planning Key Moments for Success

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The “Pinball Process” of PBL Design

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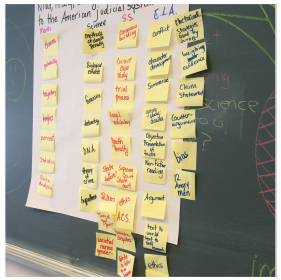
What are the learning goals for students?

By the end of this unit, my students should be able to know…

By the end of this unit, my students should be able to…



WORK BACKWARDS FROM HERE!

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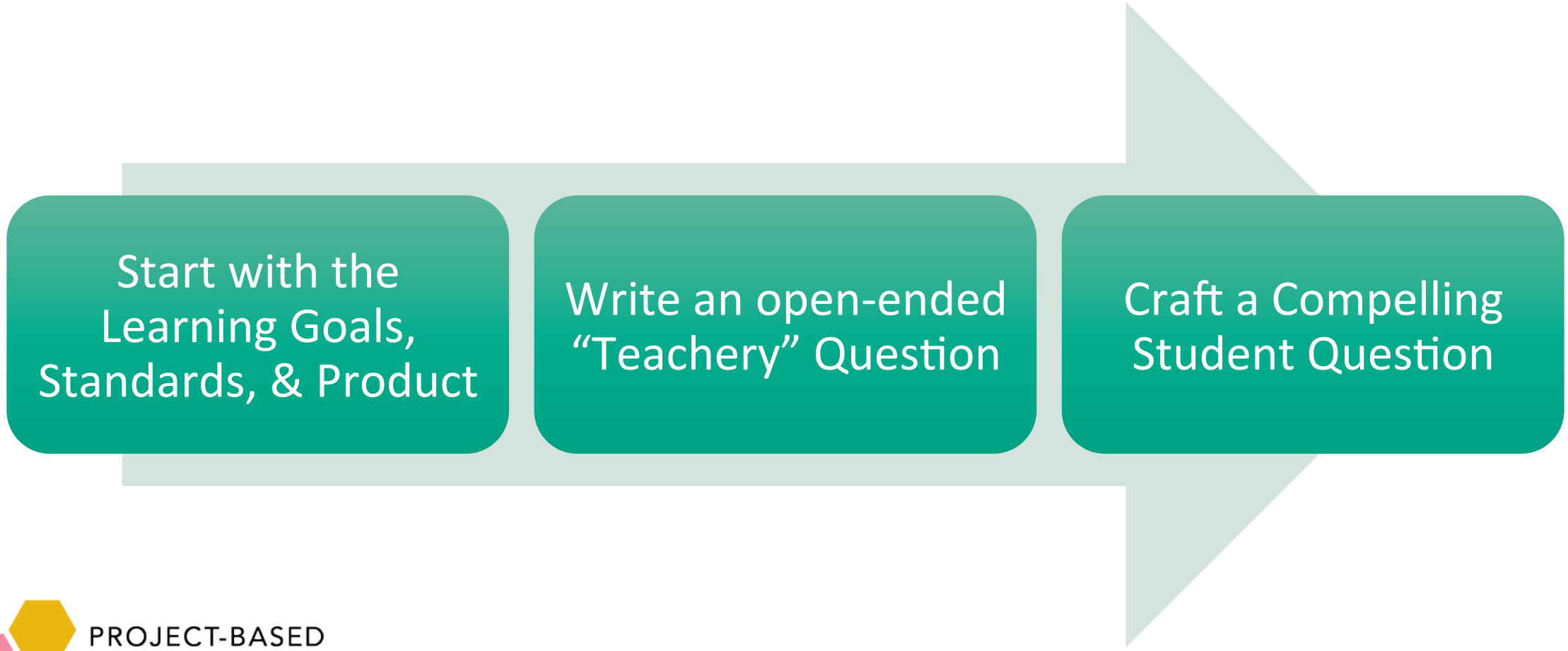
Designing Compelling PBL Driving Questions



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“Teachery” Questions vs. Student Questions

- How can we use interview skills and a podcasting app to gather the stories of our elders?
- How can we use technology to create an oral history of the contemporary United States?
- How can we capture meaningful stories of elders in our community for others to enjoy?
- How can we, as historians, collect our elders’ stories for future generations?

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How long should my PBL unit be?

- K-2nd grade: 2-4 weeks
- 3rd-6th grade: 3-5 weeks
- 7th-12th grade: 4-6 weeks

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Preplanning for Time & People

- Who is your audience or client?
- Identify your panel or audience: who will see final product
- Set a date range for final presentations
- Find examples or create your own version of the final product

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Preplanning for Materials

- Get materials from the librarian
- Gather art supplies, building materials, old magazines, whiteboards
- Set up a Donors Choose page for materials, if needed (or ask your principal)

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TEACH & MODEL what you plan to ASSESS!

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Clarity on Assessments and Expectations

- Rubric EARLY ON!
- Client Letter or Constraints
- Models in the “wild” of similar products
- Checklists
- Peer & Self Evaluations
- Feedback from teacher along the way
- Feedback from practitioners

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Plan Project Checkpoints

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Connecting PBL to School Initiatives

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What do all of these initiatives have in common?

- Social-Emotional Learning
- Personalized Learning
- Blended Learning
- Home Visits
- Family/Community Partnerships
- Project-based Learning

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The Place for Personalized Learning in PBL

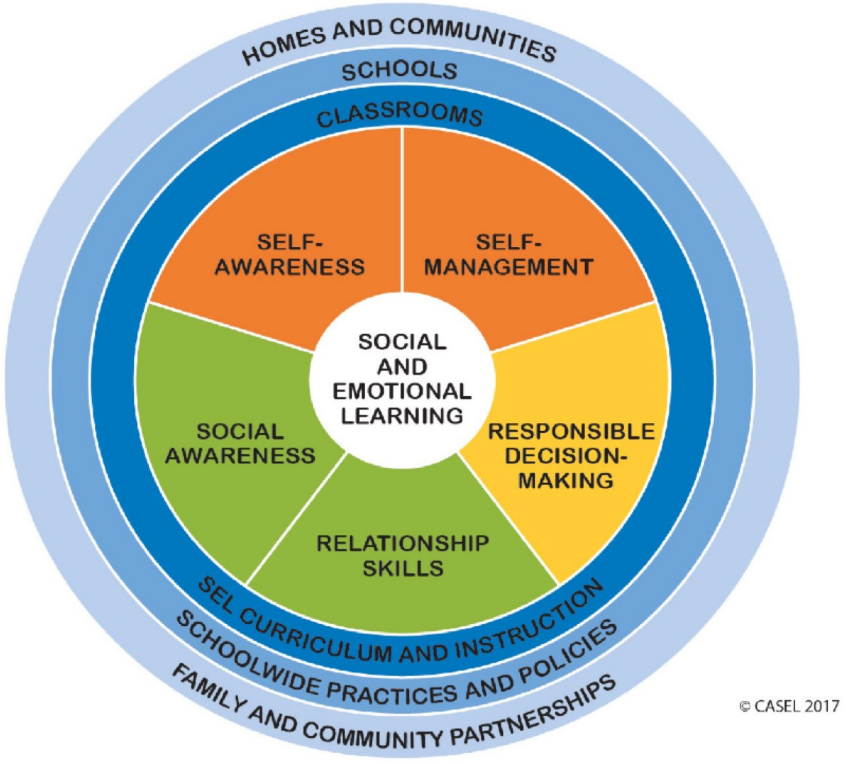
Personalized PBL is not kids working alone on a computer

PBL can provide a context for learning for a motivating, applied purpose

How Personalized Learning & PBL Connect

- Student voice and choice
- Let them set their learning goals
- Roles in the unit
- Units are designed with your students in mind and/or with their input
- PBL is responsive to students' needs and strengths
- Choice in pathways and entry points throughout the project
- Extend learner curiosity through deeper learning

SEL & PBL: Elder Stories Example



Self-management: goal setting and organizational skills
Social awareness: perspective taking, empathy, respect for others
Self-awareness: self-confidence, identifying emotions
Relationships Skills: communication, teamwork
Responsible Decision-making: evaluating, reflecting

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SEL & PBL: Elder Stories Example

- Teach and model the skills you wish to see
- Deconstruct the skill
- Practice
- Use checklists
- Discuss examples and non-examples
- Role play

Key Ideas for School Leaders

Tips and Questions as you prepare to implement PBL

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What is your vision for PBL?

Vision?

Research-based?

Solution to a problem?

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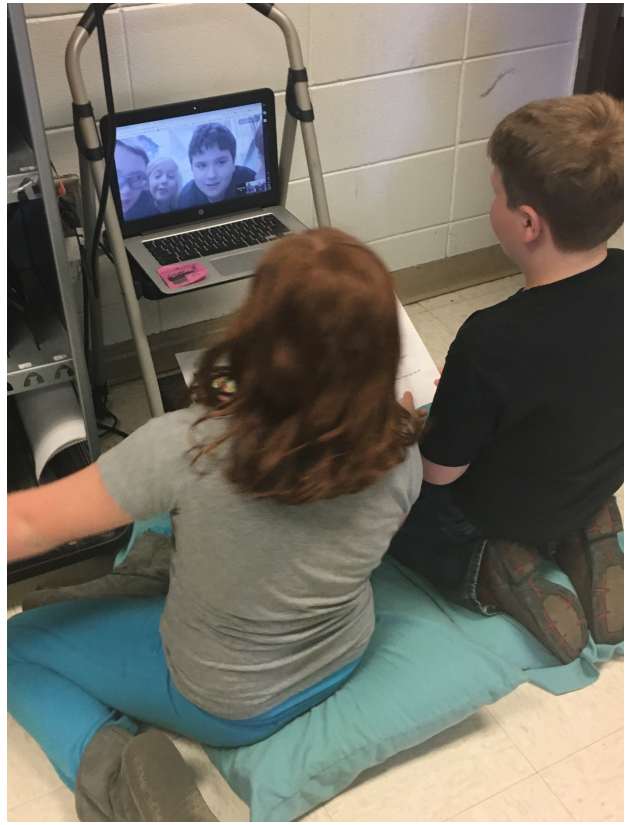
How will you introduce PBL to teachers?

Blended PBL: What is your device set-up?

Flexible Seating

- Small groups
- Individual work
- Presentations
- Labs or activities
- Peer evaluation



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Evaluations & Walkthroughs: Know what to expect in a PBL classroom

Suggested PBL Progression for Teachers

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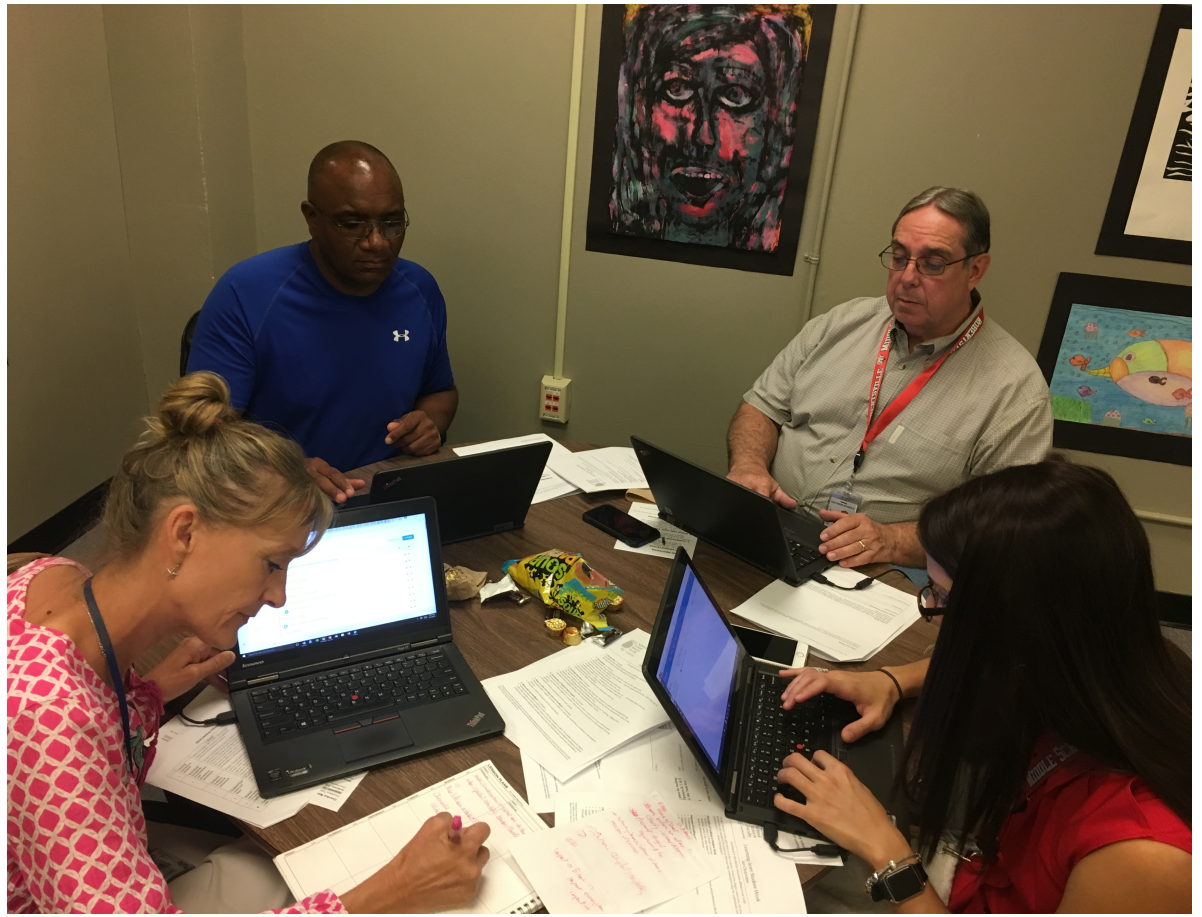
How will you provide time and support in PBL design?

- Teacher need time to work together
- Teachers need time to process ideas and understand how PBL fits into their current pedagogical framework



Start Small: Pilot with the Eager

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How will your system support out-of-class experiences?

Expect imperfect implementation

SAY YES!

Teachers may request time, training, examples, event space, audience members, and materials

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Top Tips for PBL Leaders: Review

1. Have teachers experience a project-based learning unit as a learner
2. You don't have to PBL-ify the whole curriculum
3. Transitioning to PBL is long term work
4. In-depth training with ongoing support
5. It's ambitious work that's worth doing: keep your vision

We'll be sending out a survey to figure out what content is most useful to you!

PBL Next Steps

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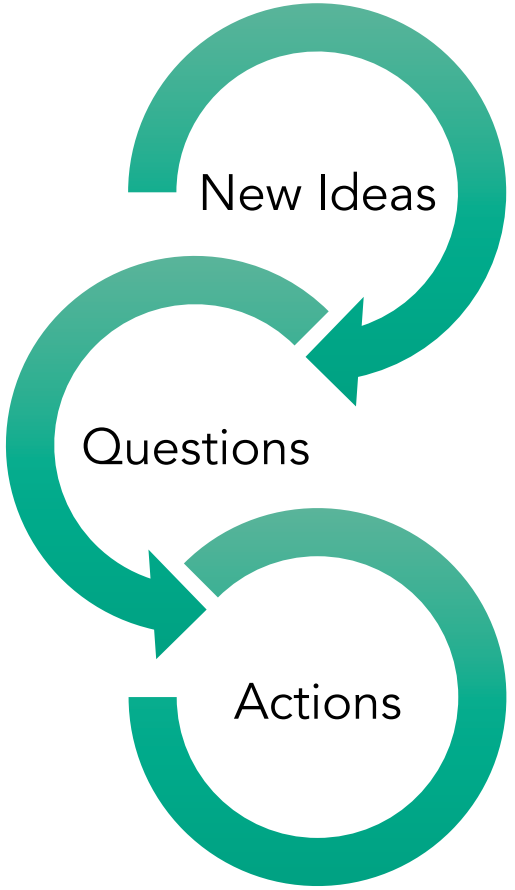
Reflection

Share your reflection in the chat box!



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Next Steps

Email me at amy@amybaeder.com to discuss your PBL situation

Let me know if you want me to:

- Write curriculum for you/your school
- Discuss a training for your school
- Help you think through unit design

We'll keep you posted on additional trainings!

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Stay Connected

1. Blog: www.amybaeder.com
2. Schedule a phone call at 800.861.1755 by emailing me at amy@amybaeder.com
3. Stay tuned for future webinars or Twitter chats!

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