

Project Based Learning & Bilingual Research Centers



Dr. E. Gonzalez

Agenda

- ☐ Discuss PBL/BRC Activities
- ☐ What is PBL?
- ☐ Why PBL?
- ☐ Components of PBL/BRC
- ☐ Examples of PBL/BRC
- ☐ Start Creating Own Project
- ☐ Question and Answer

A Project could be....

- An **exploration** of a philosophical question – “What is a healthy community?”
- An **investigation** of a historical event or a natural phenomenon-What is causing the fires in CA?
- A **problem-solving situation** – either real or fictitious-What will happen to our children if climate change goes unattended to?
- An **in-depth examination** of a controversial issue-Does recycling really help mother earth?
- A **challenge to design** an artifact, plan or event-What if we design better cars not dependent on gasoline?
- A **challenge to create** a piece of writing, multimedia or work of art for a particular audience or purpose-Why is respect for our elders important?



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www.formativedifferentiated.com

Project-Based Learning

- A typical project-based learning activity usually involves 4 basic elements:
 1. **extended time frame**-can 2-6 weeks
 2. **collaboration, interaction, CIA;**
 3. **inquiry, interdisciplinary, research**
 4. **construction of an artifact or performance of a consequential task (final product)**
- Within this basic framework, students and teachers can adapt activities to showcase and assess understanding.



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FAQ's Project-Based Learning

- **How is Project-Based Learning related to Bilingual Research Centers?**
- PBL and Bilingual Research Centers (BRCs) are **inter-related**.
- Both PBL & BRC are supporting a method inquiry into an authentic problem or question.
- BRCs are **simply “compiled set of resources”** to facilitate PBL (based on advanced planning) to investigate a question.
- The BRC is the vehicle or engine for PBL final product!

FAQ's Project-Based Learning

- **How is my student graded?**
- Rubrics may be used to grade participation in group work or quality of product(s), and individual presentations.
- FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS: Individual daily or weekly work grades may also be given.
- Anecdotal running records
- SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS: Students may also receive individual grades through traditional assessments including
- Tests, quizzes, worksheets, and benchmarks.

FAQ's Project-Based Learning

- **Does PBL support scaffolding?**
- Yes! Scaffolding is the systematic and continuous unfolding of information needed to complete the project.
- Through the use of organizers, an ever-changing list of knowns and needs to know list is displayed in the classroom.
- This list allows the students to gain knowledge on a need to know basis and prevents an overwhelming amount of information given at one time.

FAQ's Project-Based Learning

- **How does Project-Based Learning and Bilingual Research Centers work together?**
- Bilingual Research Centers are an extension of instruction and should be created in each area(s) the teacher is teaching:
 - math, science, social studies, and language arts
- Recommend 2 Projects per-subject per-year

Lets Practice!



5 Components of PBL/BRC

1. Form a Question (*begin with the end in mind*)
2. Refine the Question (*will drive the project*)
3. Outline the Project (*timeline, materials, etc.*)
4. Plan Assessment (*create a rubric*)
5. Manage the Project (*adjust as needed*)

1: Form a Question

Good projects do not occur by accident. They result from up front planning that includes thoughtful outcomes, performance assessments, & authentic learning activities

What do you want your students to know and be able to do?

- Identify the key standards that you believe might best be met through the PBL & BRC.
- Include at least two literacy outcomes in your project (listening, speaking, reading, and writing).
- Be clear about the standards that will be assessed and how the products will allow each student to demonstrate their learning.
 - Work backward from a topic
 - Use your standards
 - Find projects and ideas on the Web
 - Tie projects to local and national events
 - The community could serve as a great resource

2: Refine the Question

- **What makes a good question?**
 - are persuasive: *Should the United States have sent troops into Iraq?*
 - are open ended: *How did the revolution change the future of the U. S.?*
 - goes to heart of discipline/topic: *How is math used in our daily life?*
 - are challenging: *How much environmental change by humans is justifiable?*
 - can arise from real world dilemmas: *Should the government create new gun control laws?*
 - are consistent with curricular standards and frameworks: *What is good reading? What is good writing?*

Resource: www.bie.org

3: Outline the Project

- **What should the whole project look like?**
 - Analyzing instructional needs
 - select activities
 - estimate time
 - prepare resources.
- *Scaffold*: (videos, checklists, samples, graphic organizers, models, timelines, goal setting, etc..)
- *Examples of Activities*:

Design	Hypothesis Testing	Problem solving	Analysis
Build a model	Data collection	Identifying problems	Debates
Design a product to meet specifications	Control variables	Trying out solutions	Investigate how something works
Product improvement	Comparison of products or process	Interpreting clues	Comparing/Classifying

4: Plan the Assessment

- Assessments in PBL measure content knowledge and skills (i.e., collaboration, communication, and problem solving).
- A good assessment should answer the following questions:
 1. **How well do the students know the content of the topic of the project?**
 2. **How well have they mastered the key skills learned in the project?**
 3. **How well did they apply their knowledge and skills as they prepared their products?**

5: Manage the Project

When managing the project, make sure you:

- Monitor and regulate
- Evaluate the success of the project and help student recognize what has been learned
- List what do you believe might be some issues/difficulties you might encounter.
- Let students know the specific goals of the project
- Group students appropriately
- Clarify timeline, formative goals, final product
- How you will display your final PBL products (*PBL/BRC project wall component*)

Question & Answer

***Reach for the Moon-
The Sky is the Limit!***

