


Project-Based Online Learning

By Steve Gibbs
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- What is Project-Based Learning?
- What does it look like online?



What is project learning?

- It is a **curriculum fueled, standards based** teaching method that engages students in learning knowledge **and skills** through an extended **inquiry** process structured around complex, authentic questions and **carefully designed products and tasks**

– (a synthesized definition from the Buck Institute and GLEF)

The origins and evolution

- Project-based learning goes back over 100 years with educators like John Dewey
- Recent discoveries in learning theory indicate learning in context aids development
 - **Experience is the best teacher**
- The world has changed. The need for industrial assembly-line workers has been supplanted with a need for high-performance, multitasking, volition-endowed employees
- Education today emphasizes standards, clear outcomes, and accountability



John Dewey 1859-1952

Steps in Project Design

- Determine goals, objectives, benchmarks based on standards
- Determine the essential question and scaffolding questions
- Determine the project medium and parameters
- Develop necessary handouts, check lists, support materials
- Determine beginning, intermediate, and end dates
- Provide prototypes
- Gather necessary resources, including time
- Develop rubrics for authentic assessment; consider self-critique

Effective projects...

- Address issues that are broader than the brightest student
- Allow everyone to achieve success
- Recognize students' drive to do important work
- Engage in provocative issues
- Lead students to do in-depth exploration
- Connect know and do
- Integrate cross curricular multiple intelligences
- Allow the teacher to play guide on the side and let students discover and construct their own meanings

Benefits of Project-Based Learning

- **Increased motivation**
- **Increased problem-solving ability**
- **Improved library & Internet research skills**
- **Increased collaboration**
- **Increased resource-management skills**
- **Increased presentation and public-speaking skills**

Research that supports Projects

- **Constructivism**
- **Multiple intelligences (Howard Gardner 1995)**
- **Inquiry-based learning, discovery learning, problem-based learning**
- **Cooperative learning**
- **Process writing**
- **Standards-based authentic multidisciplinary tasks**

Now to the
good stuff!

Online Projects

- PowerPoint Presentation
- Web page and Web site
- WebQuest
- Digital video
- Digital audio
- Desktop publishing
- Digital portfolio
- Spreadsheet / database
- Programming



Note on non-technology-infused projects



- Projects don't have to be technological in design. They can be ceramic sculptures or art projects or a field trip
- Use technology to chronicle the process. Film, record, upload and scan the learning to a computer for sharing and archiving

Online resources to learn more

Searched the web for **project based learning**.
Results 1 - 20 of about 4,320,000

- The George Lucas Educational Foundation
 - <http://www.edutopia.org/PBL>
 - One of many [GLEF PBL movies](#)
- The Buck Institute
 - <http://www.bie.org/index.php>
- ISTE's The Road Ahead Program funded by Bill Gates
 - <http://www.iste.org/research/roadahead/pbl.cfm>
- CIESE online classroom projects
 - <http://www.k12science.org/index.html>
- Global Schoolhouse's Internet Project Registry
 - <http://www.globalschoolnet.org/gsh>
- Merlot
 - <http://www.merlot.org>

Online resources to assist projects

High Plains Regional Technology in Education Consortium HPR*TEC

- <http://www.4teachers.org>
 - [The Web Project and Web Ring](#) More PBL resources
 - [Project-based learning Checklists](#) Scaffolding checklists for projects
 - [Assign-a-Day Teacher Calendar](#) Build a class calendar online
 - My calendar ID 78141
 - [Quizstar](#) Online class manager. Make, take, grade quizzes, questionnaires online
 - My Quizstar contains several quizzes
 - [RubiStar](#) Online rubric maker. A classic!!
 - [TrackStar](#) Online resource designer
 - [Web Worksheet Wizard](#) Build a Teacher Web Site in a jiffy!
 - [Project Poster Wizard](#) Build a Student Web Site in a jiffy!
 - [Think Tank](#) An outline builder for students for organizing research

Online resources to assist projects

Surveys

Opinion Power

- <http://www.opinionpower.com>
- [Sample Opinion Power survey](#)
- [Sample results of Opinion Power survey](#)

Discussion Boards – private or public, moderated

- Proboards
 - <http://www.proboards.com>
 - [Sample of my class discussion boards](#)

Blog sites

- Blogger
 - <http://www.blogger.com>
 - <http://glibb0.blogspot.com/>
- Tripod
 - <http://blog.tripod.lycos.com/>
 - <http://glibb00.tripod.com/drummer/>

Online resources to assist projects

Web page and WebQuest design

- Filamentality from SBC
 - <http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/>
- Blue Web'n from SBC
 - <http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/bluewebn/index.html>
- WebQuests from Bernie Dodge SDSU
 - <http://webquest.org>
- David Warlick's Citation Machine
 - <http://www.landmark-project.com/index.php>

Online resources to assist projects

Online file storage and sharing

- Yahoo! Briefcase
– <http://briefcase.yahoo.com>

Contact Resource for other schools

- Yahoo! K-12 schools global directory
– http://dir.yahoo.com/Education/K_12/Schools/
- Yahoo! messenger
– <http://messenger.yahoo.com/>
- Microsoft messenger
– <http://messenger.msn.com/>

Bye now

Special thanks for inspiration and content information goes to

The Buck Institute
<http://www.bie.org>

ISTE's The Road Ahead Program
<http://www.iste.org>

The George Lucas Education Foundation
<http://www.glef.org>

and the many other web sites mentioned in my presentation
