

Project-Based Learning: Connecting Classrooms to the Real World offers teachers a convincing argument for implementing PBL in their classrooms to promote success in academia, in future professions, and in life. Teachers will be equipped with practical tools and resources to take steps toward, or even fully dive into, a research-proven more satisfying and effective way to teach.

This is a 3 credit course which includes course reading, watching of videos, completing of assignments, reflection, practice, interacting with fellow participants, sharing with colleagues, and applying your new learning.

Educators will find that this course gives a refreshing perspective to commonly taught topics. You will come away with a very strong handle on how to connect topics you teach to the real world and answer the question that every student has: “How does this relate to my life?”

The outline of the course is as follows:

Unit I: The Research Behind Project-Based Learning

Lesson 1: What is Project-Based Learning?

Lesson 2: Why Project-Based Learning?

Lesson 3: Project-Based Learning, CCSS, and Standards for the Teaching Profession

Lesson 4: Project-Based Learning and Research-Based Effective Models of Education

Lesson 5: Project-Based Learning: Raising Rigor

Lesson 6: Project-Based Learning and Bloom’s Taxonomy

Lesson 7: Project-Based Learning: Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners

Lesson 8: What Project-Based Learning is NOT

Unit II: Essential Elements of Project-Based Learning

Lesson 9: Significant Content

Lesson 10: 21st Century Competencies

Lesson 11: In-Depth Inquiry

Lesson 12: The Driving Question

Lesson 13: Need to Know/Authenticity

Lesson 14: Student Voice/Choice

Lesson 15: Revision & Reflection

Lesson 16: Public Audience

Unit III: Project-Based Learning in and across Disciplines

Lesson 17: Designing Discipline-Specific Project Assignments: English Language Arts

Lesson 18: Designing Discipline-Specific Project Assignments: Social Studies/History

Lesson 19: Designing Discipline-Specific Project Assignments: Science

Lesson 20: Designing Discipline-Specific Project Assignments: Math

Lesson 21: Designing Integrated-Disciplinary Project Assignments

Unit IV: Practical Steps and Principles, with Technology Usage for Project-Based Learning Assignments

Lesson 22: Managing the Process

Lesson 23: Designing High-Quality Rubrics

Lesson 24: Technology and PBL

Lesson 25: Building New Knowledge

Lesson 26: Adding Special Touches: Dedication to Celebration

Lesson 27: Common Hurdles to PBL and Tips for Overcoming Them

Unit V: Course Wrap-Up

Lesson 28: Conclusion/Final Project Final Forms/Course Evaluation