Project Based Learning for English Language Development

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What is Project Based Learning?

An approach to instruction in which learners are engaged in real-world, complex problem solving through sustained inquiry, resulting in language acquisition, as well as the development of content knowledge and 21st century skills.
Why PBL.
What does your teacher intuition tell you?

Turn and talk to your TESOL community members.

Why PBL in the language classroom?
PBL improves learning by providing opportunities to build deep content knowledge.

PBL builds 21st century skills needed for success in college, career, and life.

PBL supports community engagement by challenging students to address real world problems facing their communities.

PBL fosters self-regulation through sustained inquiry, planning, initiative, and reflection.

PBL increases student motivation and engagement by incorporating voice and choice.

PBL promotes educational equity by engaging students in rigorous and transformative learning experiences.

PBL develops technology skills through the application of tech tools.

PBL nurtures student-teacher relationships through active, sustained dialogue.
PBL facilitates language acquisition.
It’s fun. Really fun.
Gold Standard PBL.

Developed by the Buck Institute for Education

Essential Project Design Elements:

- Challenging Problem or Question
- Sustained Inquiry
- Authenticity
- Student Voice & Choice
- Reflection
- Critique & Revision
- Public Product
- Key Knowledge, Understanding, Success Skills
Designing a PBL Unit
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Framing Words</th>
<th>Person or Entity</th>
<th>Action or Challenge</th>
<th>Audience or Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How can</td>
<td>I, we</td>
<td>build</td>
<td>For a defined group of people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do</td>
<td>Town, city, county</td>
<td>propose</td>
<td>For a public audience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do</td>
<td>State, nation</td>
<td>create</td>
<td>For a school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Should</td>
<td>We as (roles, occupations)</td>
<td>change</td>
<td>For a classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What if</td>
<td>Community</td>
<td>make</td>
<td>For an online audience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What would</td>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>explore</td>
<td>For school-aged children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How does</td>
<td></td>
<td>raise</td>
<td>For the elderly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can</td>
<td></td>
<td>destroy</td>
<td>For the Spanish-speaking community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Could</td>
<td></td>
<td>design</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>plan</td>
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Adapted from the Buck Institute for Education

How can I create a podcast to challenge stereotypes of immigrants that could be shared on social media?
Driving Questions for the Language Classroom

- What would happen if we as ESL students convinced school administration to have a dedicated ESL tutoring center?
- How can we practice using specific language skills in different settings?
- Can we use digital storytelling to share our experiences as English Learners with the community?
- How can we as emergent bilinguals promote bilingualism in our community?
- Can I as an author write a bilingual alphabet book and read it to local kindergarten students?
- What strategies can I use to help me communicate in different situations?
- Do acting and singing help us learn English faster?
- How can we support English learners, immigrants, and international students at our school?
Driving Questions for the K-12 Classroom

● What would happen if we as architects designed an outdoor classroom for our school?

● Can I as a scientist design an experiment to prove ocean temperatures are rising and present my findings to NOAA?

● Should medical professionals and scientists allow for genetic engineering to prevent diseases and illnesses?

● How can we produce a public service announcement for a local TV channel showing why the Constitution is still important today?

● What would happen if students convinced the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department to construct a skate park at Loma Alta Park?

● Can we develop Spanish language educational videos to promote bilingualism in our community?

● How can we as PE students promote healthy living in our school community?
PBL Checklist

- Driving Question
- Cover Sheet
- Entry Event to Launch the Project
- “Need to Knows” Lesson
- Process and Final Products
- Rubrics
- ESSENTIAL PROJECT DESIGN ELEMENTS