Breaking with Tradition: The Need for Deeper Learning in Urban Environments

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Our Introduction (5 minutes)

- Urban school in Chicago
- Started as a technology school
- Currently in 2nd year of PBL
- Transfer of learning -- still working towards
Stand and Declare - Norms

- Hard on the content, soft of the people
- Respect different thoughts and ideas
- Share the air
Statement #1:
The biggest need for students in urban schools is more structure.
Practices like project-based learning impact higher performing students more than students with skills gaps.
Statement #3:

Expectations for students in urban areas is just as high as in rural or suburban schools.
Teachers in urban schools should focus on raising students’ test scores to give them access to opportunities after high school.
Final Share-outs from Stand & Declare

- After hearing others’ thoughts, what struck you the most?
- Did you hear anything that challenges your own thinking?
Looking at Student Work Protocol

- Look at 2 pieces of student work (some other material is included for context, but the focus will be on the student work itself)
- 20 minutes per work sample
Looking at their work

- Little Free Library (9th Grade)
- Do You Speak American? (10th Grade)
- Sound Power (11th Grade)
- Defining Moments (11th Grade)
- Making Waves (12th Grade)
Protocol Debrief-5 minutes

- After looking at the student work, how can we push it forward? What are our next steps?
- How might this type of work better benefit students from an urban environment (when compared with more traditional lessons)?
Deeper Learning Math Resources

- Yummymath.com
- Mathalicious.com
- Emergentmath.com

All 3 of these sites provide rich math problems aligned to the common core, but make a connection to something outside of the classroom.
Share resources of deeper learning tasks/projects/assignments

- student-led conferences (both High Tech High and Expeditionary Learning are great resources here)
- Scaffold Deeper Learning for English Language Learners
Debrief/Reflection

Talk at your table to reflect on what you’ve seen and heard.

We will take time to discuss final thoughts and reflections as a whole group afterward.