

Title of Session: Problem Based Curriculum

Moderator: Linda Ullah

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Room: Problem Based Curriculum Group

LindsayAS: so am I in the problem based thing?

BJB2: yes, Lindsay. We're in the process of problem solving as we speak

DavidWe: We're sorry that the discussion leader for Problem Based Curriculum isn't here

DavidWe: Looks like he's not logging in this evening

LindsayAS: Well one must go with the flow.. and wing it!

DavidWe smiles

LindaU: Sounds like a plan... good problem solving.

DavidWe . o O (pincer movement)

LindaU: I'll throw this out there in the interim.. Are you all aware of World Affairs Challenge? <http://www.du.edu/worldaffairschallenge/> I'm working with a class who is entering it, and it is definitely problem-based.. Sorry.. I'm being serious here.. oops.

LindsayAS: some really great problem solving

LindaU: World Affairs Challenge.

DavidWe: Cool, Linda. Say some more

LindaU: It is sponsored by the Center for Teaching International Relations at the University of Denver.

DavidWe smiles

LindaU: This year's topic is "The Global Market Place.

DavidWe: intros...?

LindaU: Students compete in 4 events.

LindaU: The only event I don't like is the multiple choice test.

DavidWe smiles

LindsayAS: that sounds really cool Linda. I wish there was a way to get my kids that interested.

BJB2: Thanks, David, yes, let's do intros

LindaU: They pick a topic about globalization and do a 15 minute collaborative presentation.

LindsayAS: Intros??? you start David

LindsayAS: hmm what is the age range.

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I'm one of the HelpDesk volunteers. I lead a math education and technology discussion here in Tapped In. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

TristanSD: do we do that now?

DavidWe . o O (follow along, Tristan)

BJB2: yes, Tristan, please

DavidWe smiles

LindaU: Ooops intros.. I'm Linda Ullah. I've just taken a new job with the New Tech Foundation which works with New Tech High Schools --small (400 student or less) high schools throughout the country doing PBL with technology.

BJB2 teaches remedial communication in Pennsylvania and is on Tapped In helpdesk

TristanSD: I'm Tristan Donovan. I am a third grade teacher in La Puente, CA

LindsayAS: I am Lindsay Sackman. I am a baby teacher (I just got my diploma in the mail) in Port Graham Alaska. I teach K-10.

DavidWe: Thank goodness for rural mail delivery!

TristanSD: I'm a baby teacher, too! Just finished grad school in July

LindsayAS: I can't believe I am done!

TristanSD: I didn't major in technology (obviously)

TristanSD: LOL

TristanSD: Good job, Lindsay!

LindsayAS: You too Tristan!

DavidWe smiles

SusanR: I am a sub in Ontario, Canada! Tomorrow I teach kindergarten...the babies

TristanSD: awwww

DavidWe smiles

TristanSD: I'm Canadian...my whole family's from Canada

SusanR: I moderate and facilitate the K to 3+ Great Resources sessions

LindsayAS: I have 2 kinders... They are pretty fun

SusanR: here at TI

SusanR: they are naughty babies

SusanR: 4 year olds

TristanSD: cute

SusanR: where are they from Tristan

TristanSD: Ontario, Quebec, Victoria

TristanSD: all over!

SusanR: what are you doing down in California,

LindsayAS: K- we intro'd what next?

LindsayAS trying that ol problem solving...

DavidWe: Back to Linda's web site...maybe...?

LindaU: okay.. Do I need to post it again (with BJ's help)

BJB2: <http://www.du.edu/worldaffairschallenge/>

LindaU: Thanks..

LindsayAS: go bj you are on it!

TristanSD: My mom's side of the fam is here...my dad's side is there

SusanR: I see

LindaU: I'm working with two teachers a World Studies (10th grade SS/Lang Arts) who are doing this with their students.

LindaU: Students compete on a topic related to the annual theme. This year the theme is the global market place.

LindsayAS: It really looks intriguing. so the kids are in upper high school?

LindaU: They pick a topic-- prepare a presentation that identifies a problem/issue, and propose a viable solution. They are judged by folks from the community (politicians, NGO folks, etc.)

LindaU: It seems pretty powerful.

LindaU: They have a middle school and a high school competition.

DavidWe: very cool looking project

LindaU: The students in the World Studies class are connecting this to their curriculum (the content standards for Lang Arts and Social Studies)

LindsayAS: Sounds really neat. I don't know if my kids would do something like that but I may look into adapting it for us to do locally

LindaU: So they are looking for links for their topics to imperialism, the world wars, the cold war and various revolutions.

LindaU: The neat thing, in my mind, is they are connecting social studies to their own lives, then back out to the global context (over time).

TristanSD: this is a little much for elementary, but what a GREAT way to get students involved

LindaU: I think it could be modified for elementary students.

TristanSD: social studies is typically pretty boring in middle and high school (at least in my experiences) and this looks so engaging

TristanSD: I would like to see how it could be modified

LindaU: It's boring when it is taught by memorizing dates and names, etc..

LindsayAS: My kids are all below grade level.. but perhaps modifying it would help... I don't know inspire them with real world connections

TristanSD: exactly

DavidWe: You need to come to one of the Social Studies Forum, Tristan

TristanSD: that's how I was taught

TristanSD: ok

TristanSD smiles

DavidWe: Michael Hutchison is a SUPERB social studies teacher

LindaU: I think it could be modified for grades 3-6--or maybe 4-6.

LindsayAS: hmmm... can I come too? or is just Tristan special?

TristanSD: history can be so amazing if students can actually relate to it and do hands-on activities

LindsayAS thinking.. I wanted to be a history teacher.. elementary school works because I get to do both.

SusanR: primary students need to role play history to truly understand it

SusanR: or to get a bit of a grasp

TristanSD: exactly

TristanSD: we're learning about the American Indians of long ago and how they relate to those living today

SusanR: I know the grade 4's immerse themselves into the Middle Ages

TristanSD: I haven't tried role playing yet, but that's a great idea!

LindaU: Your kids wear clothing manufactured in emerging nations. They play video games manufactured and created off-shore, etc.

SusanR: in every aspect..the classroom becomes a castle etc

TristanSD: wow...nice

LindaU: They may have parents who lost their jobs because the jobs are now done cheaper by people in other countries..

SusanR listens

LindaU: They may be looking for cheaper tech. gadgets.. (iPods, video games, etc...)... so this can be tied directly back to what they are interested in..

TristanSD: true

LindaU: Tristan.. just make sure the hands-on activities have clear learning objectives.

LindsayAS: Hey guys.. sorry I have to scoot. It is dinner time and I have screaming kiddos.

TristanSD: yes...

LindsayAS waves bye!

BJB2: thanks for your contributions to the discussion, Lindsay

LindaU actually misses dinner time with screaming kiddos.

LindsayAS: its so much fun.. my 3 year old is beating up the 1 year old.

LindsayAS: Talk to you later

LindaU remembers those days

LindsayAS left the room (signed off).

TristanSD: we just finished a project on four different California Indian groups...each group had one Indian group and they presented a poster with diff. aspects of their lifestyle (music, food, houses, art, etc.)

LindaU: Did you tie this back to the status of these tribes today?

TristanSD: we haven't yet...that's the next chapter...

LindaU: Are there local native Californians who can come and talk to your students?

TristanSD: hmmm...

TristanSD: I could look into it

TristanSD: that's a really good idea

TristanSD: we are also going to see if we can borrow some things from a local museum

LindaU: When I was still teaching elementary school we had some of the tribal elders from Native Mweukma Ohlone come to the classroom.

TristanSD: nice!

TristanSD: that would be so fun for them

LindaU: We also went to observe a dig led by an archaeologist at SJSU who was working with the tribe as they dug up the remains of their ancestors and reburied them (secret burial) as a highway was being built.

DavidWe: Lindsay, you were here last Thursday, right, for the American Indian Studies discussion, right?

LindaU: I took my son, who is now an archaeologist.

TristanSD: I think your ideas are great, Linda!

LindaU: Anyway.. back to PBL.. The interesting thing about having the tribal elders work with my students is they were not a recognized tribe.

TristanSD: we need to get students excited about history

LindaU: My students wrote letters to their Congress persons on the tribe's behalf to help them get tribal status.

DavidWe agrees with Tristan

LindaU: History isn't just about long-dead guys and dates, but it relates to everything happening in the world today..

TristanSD: wow...you put me to shame!

TristanSD: so true

LindaU: ...and directly affects the lives of our students, now and in the future...

TristanSD: I wish I had had teachers like you to get me more interested in history

TristanSD: it always seemed dull to me

LindaU: I'm pretty passionate about this...

TristanSD: and I had to try to create my own interest in it

LindaU: I started out to be a social studies teacher MANY years ago.. but got diverted..

DavidWe smiles

LindaU: I found history boring in high school until my senior year.. when I had an outstanding teachers (with whom I still correspond.)

TristanSD: awww...

LindaU: He's well up in his 80s now, but still sharp and keeps me thinking after all these years.

LindaU: The secret is to help your students find the ties between social studies and the things they care about.. It's not all that hard.

TristanSD: true

LindaU: Actually this is true for all subjects..

TristanSD: we keep discussing social studies and our community and how it relates to the Indian communities we're studying

TristanSD: they are very engaged

LindaU: good..

SusanR listens

LindaU: Native CA history is fascinating.

SusanR: Canadian..aboriginal, Inuit and native history is quite fascinating

BJB2: Thanks for leading this discussion for us, Linda! I'm sorry Chris didn't show up.

DavidWe: Yes, thanks, Linda

LindaU: Not sure I really led it.. but I had fun..

DavidWe hopes Tristan can make it back for another discussion

TristanSD: Tristan listens

TristanSD smiles

SusanR: Thanks Linda and a pleasure meeting you, Tristan

TristanSD: Nice to meet you guys!!!!

TristanSD: Linda, I'm impressed!

DavidWe: Linda IS impressive, Tristan

TristanSD: I know...wow!

TristanSD: you've inspired me...

TristanSD smiles

LindaU: I've just been around a long time... My mom once told me if you live long enough you learn a thing or two..

TristanSD: lol

DavidWe smiles

TristanSD: so true

SusanR nods

TristanSD: have a great night you guys

SusanR: I have learned a great deal from the folks I have met at TI

LindaU: I'm glad you are inspired... I suspect you were before this discussion as well.

TristanSD: will this transcript be sent to us?

LindaU: yes

TristanSD: oh good

TristanSD: right away?

LindaU: We all learn from each other.

DavidWe: After you logout, Tristan

DavidWe: Takes about 10 minutes

TristanSD: oh, ok

TristanSD smiles

TristanSD: thanks

DavidWe smiles

SusanR: come back again, Tristan

TristanSD: I will!

TristanSD: thanks guys

TristanSD: see ya!

DavidWe waves bye