

**Title of Session:** Problem Based Curriculum

**Moderator:** Chris Aguirre

**Title of File:** 20070416pbc

**Date:** April 16, 2007

Room: Problem Based Curriculum Group

**BjB** waves hi to Chris and his groupies

**JulieCh:** Haha I'm also checking out the links they are helpful

**ChrisA:** Hi Bj

**LeannM:** I am here for the Problem Based Curriculum group

**BjB:** couple more minutes and then I'll announce, Chris

**ChrisA:** Well hello everyone My name is Chris and this the Problem based Curriculum group

**ChrisA:** Great to have you Leann

**ChrisA:** Why don't we get started by allowing everyone a chance to introduce themselves and state where they are coming from tonight

**VercyH:** I'm Taiwan (in Asia), have u heard about that?

**KristinMJ:** Kristin, I teach 5th grade science in Deer Park, Texas

**VercyH:** and I'm just a student

**ErinEP:** I'm Erin, student teaching in Houston, Texas

**JulieCh:** I'm from Taiwan, too. I'm Vercy's classmate

**LeannM:** Hi, I am LeAnn and I teacher K-5 Technology in Carson City, Nevada

**KristinaME:** Hello, I am Kristina student teaching in Pasadena, Texas

**JulieCh:** We just took a course called online learning and it's cool.

**EleanorC:** I'm also Vercy's classmate

**LeannM:** I am taking a PBS TeacherLine class: Capstone I

**DianeP:** HI, I teach computers in Erie, PA

**JulieCh:** Hello there^^

**VercyH:** we have a class talking about online English so the teacher encourage us to go to Tapped-In

**AnnamarieB:** I am a grad student at George Mason U in Fairfax VA

**ChrisA:** that is great

**ChrisA:** Well hello everyone and welcome

**BiancaB:** I have not been to one of these online prof dev's

**DianeP:** hi

**BiancaB:** I am excited to learn:)

**ChrisA:** Why don't we get started by finding out if anyone is currently using a problem based curriculum model in their work

**DanielR:** ???

**LeannM:** No.

**ErinEP:** Not sure...

**BiancaB:** no I was hoping to learn more about it though

**KristinMJ:** I don't know if we do, but I'm very interested

**ElinaS:** no

**BiancaB:** actually I am a student teacher

**LeannM:** I want to learn more.

**BiancaB:** what is it?

**ChrisA:** not a problem why don't we start by constructing a common definition?

**ChrisA:** I define problem based curriculum as curriculum based on a overarching question that allows students to put into action the knowledge you presenting.

**JulieCh:** okay~

**AnnamarieB:** can you give an example?

**VercyH:** right "put into action"

**MarieKi:** so solving real world problems with the information you are learning?

**KristinMJ:** wow....

**DanielR:** ya example

**ChrisA:** It is the idea that along with the knowledge we as educators provide the relevance for the information we are teaching through the use of a practical application of some sort

**EleanorC:** what do teachers do in Problem based learning?

**ChrisA:** Great question

**KristinaME:** Rationale in our lesson plans

**VercyH:** they provide a problem waiting to be solved?

**LeannM:** It sounds like we are making the students relevant to their prior knowledge

**BiancaB:** we talked about this in a class but they called it "essential questioning"

**ChrisA:** Teachers present knowledge as engaging questions design situations that allow students to use the knowledge they teaching

**KristinMJ:** that is so amazing!! I would love to know how to do that with science....we do it mildly, but a whole curriculum based on that sounds incredible

**BiancaB:** makes sense

**AnnamarieB:** I think essential understanding and essential questioning are slightly different

**JulieCh:** What do we expect on this kind of learning? Solving problem?

**DianeP:** From my understanding the teacher's role is pretty much a guide - leading the students in the right direction

**ChrisA:** Why don't we look at a subject?

**AnnamarieB:** excellent idea

**JulieCh:** bring questions and solve problems?

**EleanorC:** good

**BiancaB:** well essential questioning was a question that had so much depth to it

**ChrisA:** I think we have some Math Teachers tonight?

**ElinaS:** true

**DanielR:** yea

**BiancaB:** like how do we affect the earth?

**DanielR:** soon to be a teacher

**JulieCh:** Thanks Bianca^

**ChrisA:** yes that would be a great way to do it

**BiancaB:** and then you could go into different areas of content with that

**ChrisA:** Any Math teachers?

**KristinMJ:** does this mean that everything that we teach will revolve around one overlying scenario

**KristinaME:** yes like a themed lesson

**ErinEP:** Elementary

**DianeP:** From my experience with PBL finding the right question is the key

**KristinaME:** elementary

**ChrisA:** Great where are you at currently in your curriculum

**ElinaS:** middle

**ChadA:** elementary

**DanielR:** want be a math teacher

**BiancaB:** yea like a unit or theme lesson

**BiancaB:** elementary

**ChrisA:** fantastic Chad where are you at in your curriculum

**AnnamarieB:** middle school English

**BiancaB:** I have pre-k!

**VercyH:** right question, yes. it makes sense

**DianeP:** secondary

**ChristinW:** hello everyone! I am the new comer

**BiancaB:** it is hard to do this with pre-k

**EleanorC:** so we let the student find their own questions by setting up the first question?

**ChristinW:** I am a student

**ErinEP:** Kinder here

**DianeP:** my kids have done a lot of this in their pre-k

**ChrisA:** Hi Christina

**DianeP:** it works wonders - they really get into it!

**BjB** . o O ( since we have a newcomer, a reminder that if you're new to tapped In go to the actions menu in the top right of your chat window and click on detach )

**ChrisA:** Ok I will just come up with a scenario

**AnnamarieB:** Diane can you give us an example? As a middle school teacher I am curious how you do that in pre-k

**LeannM:** I would like to have an elementary example. too.

**DianeP:** My daughter just did a PBL unit on dinosaurs

**ChrisA:** Math is great for a problem based approach because it lends itself to practical applications

**DianeP:** they go through the whole situation

**VercyH:** why "picking a good question" is the most important point?

**ErinEP:** we're learning about dinosaurs right now

**DianeP:** measurement - how big are they,

**ChrisA:** Measurement great

**DianeP:** comparisons - to our sizes

**JulieCh:** Because the question can lead learner to attend the goal as solving a problem?

**DianeP:** they made fossils,

**AnnamarieB:** We did a unit on the problem of how we can connect to the community...

**BiancaB:** can you provide a specific example Chris?

**ChrisA:** I think the Dinosaur idea is a great idea

**ChrisA:** Yes I can

**BiancaB:** thanks

**AnnamarieB:** We came up with a VIP day for our school that was completely orchestrated by the class

**ChrisA:** let's take measurement

**KristinMJ:** I wish one person could lead this because it is confusing with all of the diff. stories and I'm really interested

**DanielR:** ya I am confused

**DianeP:** As a 4 year old, the overarching questions were pretty basic, but it was all project based and they learned a lot from the different questions asked.

**LeannM:** I am confused too.

**ChrisA:** What we would look to do is is develop a problem that would deepen students understand of unit of measurement

MarieKi: Chris A is leading this...why don't we listen to what he has to say about measurement!

**BiancaB:** ok

**ChrisA:** Guiding questions would be good in this example

**AnnamarieB:** For example?

**BiancaB:** like?

**JulieCh:** It's clear.

**KristinMJ:** thanks!!

**EleanorC:** What's the question in the dinosaur example?

**ChadA:** What type of measurement do we want to focus on

**ChrisA:** if we measured a dinosaur by feet and inches what would that convert to in centimeters

**BiancaB:** I am trying to relate this stuff to my pre-k kids... this seems like too complex

**ErinEP:** extremely

**JulieCh:** Okay

**ChrisA:** for that matter what would that convert to in hands or feet (meaning your foot)

**KristinMJ:** just relating any content to real life examples??

**BiancaB:** oh ok

**ErinEP:** ahh

**BiancaB:** I have done something like that recently

**DianeP:** For the 4 year olds, they took them outside in the hallway and marked off different dinosaur heights with tape. They compared the lengths to all different things

**BiancaB:** we got in partners and traced each other and then measured ourselves in hands

**ChrisA:** the idea behind it would be to present a problem that allows students to put into practice the knowledge you are presenting. It does not need to be a big problem

**JulieCh:** It's a cute example

**BiancaB:** cool thanks for clearing

**ChristinW:** Could anyone tell me what we're talking about then because I am kind of confused

**ChristinW:** sorry for coming late

**EleanorC:** right...so is it a math class? What do we do if the kids start asking question about other subject concerning dinosaurs? like biology?

**JulieCh:** It can be an easy problem if learners really do learn from it.

**ChrisA:** in fact more often than not it happens in the form of good questions that allow students to construct knowledge that deepens their understanding of the subject

**DianeP:** They laid down next to it, and compared to themselves, their rest time buddies, their house, car etc

**KristinMJ:** so after you have finished talking about money, doing a budget might be a good idea??....still confused

**ChrisA:** I have used the model in a couple of different ways

**DianeP:** With them, measurement also meant bigger, smaller

**JulieCh:** Christina we are giving example of Problem-based

**ChrisA:** I have given the problem first and then the knowledge

**ChadA:** Problem: Could this dinosaur fit in your house comfortably

**LeannM:** Any time you can relate the curriculum to real life situations makes the learning more meaningful to the students.

**AnnamarieB:** Would an example for measurement be, you have to make pancakes and you only have a recipe with metrics or vice versa and you need to convert?

**VercyH:** what's the way related to online English learning?????

**KristinaME:** let students EXPLORE then we can EXPLAIN

**DianeP:** Chad - great example

**ErinEP:** yeah, love it

**ChrisA:** this allowed me to map all of the content I was presenting to the problem creating relevance for the knowledge I am attempting to transfer



**KristinMJ:** oh...inquiry-based learning!!!!

**DianeP:** As for crossing curriculum - Chad's question would be great

**ElinaS:** They also tend to remember better

**KristinMJ:** letting them figure it out before you give it to them

**DianeP:** not only fitting it - but would they find food to eat, in your house

**JulieCh:** What's the main difference between PBL and Inquiry-based?

**ChrisA:** I would say yes problem based learning and inquiry based learning have a lot in common

**EleanorC:** What's the difference between inquiry based learning and problem based learning?

**DanielR:** ya what's the difference

**ChrisA:** they both rely on students' ability to push their thinking further through the construction of knowledge

**JulieCh:** Okay

**DanielR:** ok

**EleanorC:** right

**ChrisA:** I think were they differ is in structure

**BiancaB:** this is good insight

**AnnamarieB:** In inquiry based learning you start with a question, something the students want to know about

**EleanorC:** simple question?

**BiancaB:** is the phrase "problem based curriculum" a well known practice?

**DianeP:** Chris - what does the structure of PBC look like?

**AnnamarieB:** Problem based is a conundrum that needs to be solved, similar, but depending upon the application different

**BiancaB:** does it go by any other names?

**ChadA:** Inquiry has the students exploring more open ended?

**ChrisA:** and problem based learning starts with a problem something that allows a student to plug in their knowledge to solve

**KristinMJ:** I see....

**ChrisA:** Ya I agree, Chad. Inquiry based learning would be more open ended

**JulieCh:** to apply some knowledge with the problem?

**ChrisA:** yes

**KristinMJ:** PBL...using something they already know to fix a prob.

**VercyH:** in inquiry based, students solve the problem they just want to solve?

**LeannM:** Is PBL a program or a philosophy?

**EleanorC:** do we tend to start with a simpler question in QBL, and a larger question in PBL?

**JulieCh:** Oh it's like a 7 blind mice

**KristinMJ:** IBL learning while fixing the prob

**ChrisA:** Yes Eleanor that is a great way of putting it

**ChadA:** PBL is a strategy

**JulieCh:** ahhh.

**EleanorC:** I see the difference now

**KristinaME:** Brain questions instead of book questions

**EleanorC:** so IBL is more open-ended

**JulieCh:** I see now, thank you^^

**DanielR:** I guess I am lost b/c I am still in college

**EleanorC:** while PBL has more focus

**DanielR:** not teaching yet

**VercyH:** <http://oel07.blogspot.com/>

**ChrisA:** I think anytime we can look outside the classroom and place the knowledge we are presenting in the larger context of the world students see the relevance for it in there pursuit of solving the immediate problem.

**KristinMJ:** I learned it in my methods classes for science....well IBL anyway.....its wonderful!!!

**DanielR:** I agree

**VercyH:** our class draw different charts to show the differences

**JulieCh:** Well does PBL apply better in math and science subject?

**KristinaME:** it is all about offering the students more opportunity to THINK rather than just memorizing rules, and definitions

**ChrisA:** I have seen problem based learning models used in Social Science class, vocational classes, English Classes

**AnnamarieB:** PBL can be used in any classroom, I have used it in Language arts, SS and even ethics

**JuliaMB:** what about in math classes

**JulieCh:** Okay, their strategy is the same.

**ChadA:** Definitely Chris authentic learning motivates especially when we utilize students' 21st century skills

**BiancaB:** what content area do you think it is best to use this approach?

**KristinMJ:** it's soo soos oo wonderful in science

**ChrisA:** Math works well the trick is consistently be mapping the topic to some aspect of the world

**BiancaB:** true

**KristinaME:** if planned carefully it could be used in all content areas

**LindaU:** I'd definitely like info on math.

**JuliaMB:** me too

**LindaU:** I find my math teachers have the most difficult time with PBL.

**KristinMJ:** Chris....was there anything specific about PBL that you wanted us to go over tonight?

**JulieCh:** Thanks.

**DanielR:** who else is a student in here???

**EleanorC:** me

**JuliaMB:** I am

**ErinEP:** student teacher

**VercyH:** me too

**DanielR:** you understand?

**ChrisA:** I haven't found anything on the net yet that addressed just math but I have helped teachers develop problems they have used in their classroom

**JulieCh:** Me, Christina Vercy

**ChristinW:** me too

**KristinaME:** me too

**DianeP:** I did a PBL lesson a LONG time ago based on the book "The Math Curse"

**ChrisA:** Really how was it

**JulieCh:** The Math Curse sounds interesting.

**ErinEP:** I have taught a couple of lessons in social studies that I think may have been problem based

**ChrisA:** Really how So Erin?

**LeannM:** If you are a student, have you done your student teaching?

**ErinEP:** well I think they were...

**JulieCh:** examples are great

**DianeP:** I would have to dig it out to remember it all, but it was a probability lesson - It was a long time ago though so all the details are sketchy right now

**ErinEP:** I introduced a unit on community

**ChrisA:** could you share a little more Erin I would love to hear about what you did

**KristinMJ:** I have a whole book of IBL for science....but it sounds like I'm the only science nerd in here..

**DianeP** with all these students - I'm feeling pretty old - Laughs

**LeannM:** Thanks, just curious.

**EleanorC:** some teachers have tried PBL on us at college, but the problem is that we often end up asking questions outside the subject

**ChristinW:** I am interested in examples too

**ChadA:** I'm working with 4th grade students to construct roller coasters, which I think could be a mix of IBL and PBL

**ErinEP:** and I had the students build a community

**KristinaME:** I have done one on habitats

**KristinaME:** a lesson taken from Flying Wild

**AnnamarieB:** Erin, what was the problem you initially started with?

**LeannM:** Has anyone ever done a PBL on technology curriculum?

**ChrisA:** Wow what a great idea:

**ChrisA:** yes I have Leann

**ChrisA:** a lot of them to be exact

**JulieCh:** yeah what's the problem you bring out at first

**LeannM:** Can you give me an elementary example?

**ErinEP:** I told the class that I was building a new home in an area that had nothing surrounding it...

**ChrisA:** I think depending on what you're teaching in the tech class the sky's the limit and it's a great cross curriculum tie in

**DianeP:** Not sure if it was PBL - but it could probably be modified to meet the requirements:

**AnnamarieB:** Ahh, very interesting Erin, definitely PBL

**JulieCh:** yes

**DianeP:** What will the (you pick technology) look like in the future

**ErinEP:** and I had them think of things that we needed to have in my new community (police station, fire station, etc...) to make the community work

**ChrisA:** One of the keys to the process is the identification of the practical application

**AnnamarieB:** There are so many tie ins with the community aspect. There is also a tie in with web quests? Has anyone done those?

**DianeP:** How would a web quest compare to PBL?

**JulieCh:** the identification

**ChrisA:** for example I taught computer languages for seven years and one my favorite lessons was scripts formulas for gravity and friction

**ErinEP:** I've done one of those too

**DianeP:** great minds Annamarie!! smiles

**ChadA:** I've done them check out [webquests.org](http://webquests.org)

**ChristinW:** I mean the student did well when teacher use PBL?

**JulieCh:** so students can be serious with what they are going to do.

**VercyH:** I think the webquest is the approach for PBL

**KristinMJ:** I love these ideas!

**ChrisA:** it allowed me create problems that students want to solve and it pulled in knowledge from other content areas

**VercyH:** and PBL is the concept of the learning process

**JulieCh:** ok Chris

**KristinaME:** I would not have thought of any of this....

**AnnamarieB:** Students are much more engaged, especially in middle school when they have more choice

**KristinMJ:** PBL is based on prior knowledge though right?

**KristinaME:** Elementary students love choice also

**ChristinW:** It is different from Taiwan

**ChrisA:** I think Social Science classes have opportunities to impact community problems through the examination of curriculum

**JulieCh:** So PBL can integrate all the subjects even in one problem.

**LeannM:** Yes, Christina, elementary students do love choice.

**KristinMJ:** teachers are scared to teach this way because they do not have total control of the class....we become more of a facilitator

**ChrisA:** I think anytime you allow students to plug into to the world at large in an attempt to solve big problems you have created a great win win

**ChristinW:** our teacher just taught what we should learn straight out

**KristinaME:** Not just middle school students like choice

**ChrisA:** I can see where it may look like that Kristine

**DianeP:** I think all students love choices - and as a teacher, I love to offer them because it makes grading much more interesting

**AnnamarieB:** I actually think you have a more calm class when you are teaching this way

**ChrisA:** but honestly it doesn't need to be like that

**VercyH:** I think elementary students tend to choose more

**BiancaB:** I think though that children get so scared and freeze when you give them choice b/c they are not used to it

**ChadA:** Calm and engaged

**AnnamarieB:** I agree, about the choices, I was just suggesting that middle schoolers have a lot of limits on them and particularly love them

**JulieCh:** Yes it's important to have choice to think over and decide what to do when facing a teacher's problem

**KristinMJ:** I agree Annemarie....but those who have not had the experience can find this scary

**ChrisA:** First the problem (what ever it is) is the end to the means Teachers still organized and design ways to effectively deliver content

**BiancaB:** they feel unsafe when you don't tell them exactly what to do and how to do it

**KristinMJ:** true

**ErinEP:** if it is consistent, it seems that they would get used to it though

**KristinaME:** at first yes ...but if you use it often then it will become natural

**JulieCh:** It's clear^^

**ChristinW:** how do you keep them stay to the topic you want them to learn?

**BiancaB:** I think as adults we feel like that sometimes too

**JulieCh:** I see now

**KristinMJ:** I like it though...you would be surprised at the questions that they come up with to expound on the lesson

**ChrisA:** second it offers the possibility of reaching different learning modalities and that always helps

**BiancaB:** kids are so smart

**BiancaB:** if you give them the right opportunities to express themselves

**AnnamarieB:** I have found that if we lay down some concrete expectations early on, that it makes it go easier

**KristinaME:** Small choices...even in prek why can't they choose the color of construction paper they want

**AnnamarieB:** It also works great with small groups



**ChrisA:** so now you are not only verbally and visually delivering information you are creating experiences that ground the knowledge in experience

**KristinMJ:** that's where facilitating comes in...when I did IBL there are MANY debriefing times to say what we have learned....basically to check in and make sure everyone is on the right page

**VercyH:** I have a Q. is there anyone who use PBL and failed??????

**KristinMJ:** not that I have seen

**AnnamarieB:** I am sure that I had some failures on my way to learning it.

**ChrisA:** I don't think you need to give up control I think you need to constantly be willing to focus student actions towards the goal of solving the problem at hand

**JulieCh:** how can a PBL fail?

**ChrisA:** that is a great question Julie

**LeannM:** When students have choices, they have much more buy-in for their learning.

**JulieCh:** to make them focus on

**AnnamarieB:** You see small enough success to encourage you to try again

**ChrisA:** and the answer lies in your definition of Failure

**JulieCh:** Thanks ^^

**DianeP:** I think PBL fails most often when the teacher has not planned

**ChristinW:** oh I see

**DianeP:** Planning is crucial!

**DavidWe** agrees

**AnnamarieB:** I failed when I didn't anticipate problems or administrative constraints

**ChrisA:** I think the method is a great formative assessment tool

**JulieCh:** I mean if the students don't get the right answer and lost their interest on the problem solving

**AnnamarieB:** Also, ultimately you have to teach the curriculum, and you want to make sure they learn what you want them to.

**ChrisA:** it has the potential to be a great summative assessment tool but I recommend sitting down and giving thought to a rubric

**KristinMJ:** planning is crucial!!! if the students are having an authentic learning experience then they really stay focused

**ChadA:** Use a good rubric and build it up front with the kids to prevent failure

**LeannM:** Planning is the key to everything.

**KristinaME:** YES!

**KristinMJ:** rubric sounds good....does that hinder thought processes?

**ChrisA:** that will allow students to understand how their efforts will be recognized and respected

**DianeP:** I think one of the great things about PBL is that there isn't always a set answer.

**EleanorC:** yeah, there is just the question to be answered

**KristinMJ:** agree

**JulieCh:** to show the teachers' respect to their answer

**AnnamarieB:** Rubrics, love em, but it takes some practice I think to get them right.

**DianeP:** The learning comes through the process. The answer is not always "right or wrong"

**JulieCh:** I see^^

**ChadA:** The problem isn't solved in the rubric, just clarifies expectations

**ChrisA:** No not at all and I recommend you use a rubric it is important that students understand that how they will be evaluated in their attempt to solve the problem

**ChrisA:** I will put like this

**LeannM:** Rubrics help students focus on what is important, and they know the expectations, right from the beginning.

**AnnamarieB:** Well put Chad

**ChrisA:** if there is a danger to this method it is this

**ErinEP:** Have you ever heard of Exemplars?

**EleanorC:** what's that?

**ChadA:** Yes exemplars

**KristinaME:** no

**JulieCh:** what danger?

**ChrisA:** you can define failure in such narrow terms that students will not risk innovation to solve the problem at hand

**JulieCh:** oh yes

**KristinMJ:** wow

**ChrisA:** They literally will not see why they would want to participate

**KristinMJ:** that's good....I agree

**ChrisA:** I also think it sends the message that Failure is not getting the problem correct

**VercyH:** will u tell the students that you're doing the PBL

**DianeP:** It's kind of like a math teacher that requires specific steps to complete a problem instead of letting the students explore and find the methods and reasons for why their way works.

**ChristinW:** How do you evaluate in PBL

**VercyH:** or you just do it without informing

**ChrisA:** I caution against doing this because we are asking students to push their thinking

**KristinMJ:** right.....

**ChrisA:** I think it is important that Failure be defined in very broad terms: The only way you fail is if you give up

**ChrisA:** if you stop trying

**VercyH:** yes, How do you evaluate????

**KristinMJ:** and if we gain their trust to open up their brain freely in your classroom and we shoot them down, they won't feel comfortable with it again

**BiancaB:** I don't think pushing children to think is bad if you do it correctly and developmentally appropriate

**JulieCh:** to make them think themselves rather than following the text book

**KristinMJ:** I love this.....how do you evaluate....growth maybe?

**KristinMJ:** progress?

**KristinMJ:** not "the answer"

**ChadA:** Did they solve the problem?

**DavidWe . o O ( portfolio? )**

**ChrisA:** I think using a rubric allows a teacher to define failure in this way while simultaneously assessing what a student knows and whether they can apply the knowledge

**DianeP:** Evaluate - finding an answer - not necessarily "the answer"

**KristinMJ:** like it David

**KristinaME:** anecdotal records

**ChadA:** Can they support their solution

**DianeP:** I like David's idea of a portfolio too

**BiancaB:** yea I think textbooks should be used as supplements

**ErinEP:** yes

**ChrisA:** David I love the portfolio idea

**KristinMJ:** I see Diane...that's good

**ErinEP:** reasoning

**DavidWe** is doing some work with digital portfolios to evaluate student work

**ChadA:** What would be included in the portfolio

**DavidWe:** student work

**EleanorC:** and how to tell one portfolio is better than the other?

**ChrisA:** I drove my wife crazy in a cross country trip were I did nothing but advocate for students to develop portfolios that demonstrated the problems they solved

**DavidWe:** evidence, hopefully, of progress - student progress with time

**KristinaME:** student samples some the student chose themselves

**DianeP:** A lot of the questions I have my students answer I tell them that if they support their answer/opinion, they can have any answer/opinion they want - as long as it's well worded

**ChrisA:** So a students' public schools career would be judged on what they created and their personal growth and society would have tangible proof of their ability

**KristinMJ:** that's awesome Chris!! I love the idea of students making portfolios for themselves

**DanielR:** portfolio's are how we did things in English 1301 1302

**LeannM:** That sounds great Diane!

**ChrisA:** does anyone else think that idea has merit?

**ErinEP:** That's usually the hardest part for them...WRITING how they solved the problem

**JulieCh:** it's important for students to show personality

**KristinMJ:** the explanation of the thinking is such a neat part of the process!!

**ChrisA:** Ya I agree Erin but the potential for that is so great

**KristinaME:** they can usually explain it so maybe a video would be ideal or recorder

**DianeP:** In our school getting them to explain their reasoning, and expand beyond yes and no is a huge problem

**EleanorC:** so we want them to provide a description of their problem solving process?

**DianeP:** It also helps with our standardized tests (PSSA)

**KristinMJ:** the students don't have the practice

**DianeP:** We have tried portfolios Chris - but lack of support made them fall through.

**ErinEP:** for sure

**JulieCh:** it's better to show the possibilities of each student's thinking

**ChadA:** imovie, moviemaker, or photostory are good for digital storytelling...telling how they solved the problem

**DavidWe:** There MUST be administrative support

**DavidWe:** . o O ( just won't work, otherwise )

**DianeP:** Lack of professional training, lack of time to get them organized, lack of teacher and administrative support at the school level

**ChrisA:** imagine allowing a middle school student to present his solution for a more productive placement of recycling collection points to local business and highschool science classes

**DianeP:** I think a digital portfolio might be much more successful

**KristinMJ:** are we talking about a portfolio through the students' school from K-12 or just one for this year in science type of thing

**DianeP:** A place on a network that follows the student throughout their school career

**DavidWe:** Diane, check out [www.richerpicture.com](http://www.richerpicture.com)

**JuliaMB:** what if the school doesn't have the technology to do online portfolios

**JulieCh:** it's cool

**KristinMJ:** that's awesome Chris....I've done that!! It's hard doing digital stuff when so many schools are tech. deprived

**EleanorC:** Have anyone done portfolio in ESL teaching?

**DianeP:** PBL would follow along with this - it would show all the problems they have solved from pre-k to grade 12, and how they have developed

**KristinaME:** The old fashion portfolio (file, folder, ...) would work as well

**DianeP:** Thanks David

**ChristinW:** Would it be too much for student if every content class were PBL?

**DavidWe:** they need to acquire the technology, then, Julia, but - save stuff on a USB flash drive

**DavidWe:** . o O ( quite inexpensive )

**DavidWe:** ultimately, there will need to be funds for this stuff - hardware/software/training

**KristinMJ:** I was just wondering that Christina.....tons of projects it seems

**ChristinW:** Because they just have a lot too think!

**BiancaB:** well I see that time is almost up... I want to thank everyone for a good chat

**DianeP:** I'm still getting the hang of it

**AnnamarieB:** You would need to have the entire team onboard as well

**JulieCh:** to think is to learn, haha

**ChristinW:** hah hope it is not a silly question

**KristinMJ:** a lot to follow and remember day in and day out\

**EleanorC:** ESL students would have problem for they don't actually have the ability to describe their process...

**ErinEP:** GT students are great with this though!

**VercyH:** what is GT?

**ErinEP:** it's really amazing what they will come up with

**DianeP:** Oh - but it would be a great way to develop their English skills

**ErinEP:** gifted and talented

**JulieCh:** oh

**ChrisA:** I would like to revisit the idea one more time

**VercyH:** thanks Erin

**LeannM:** ESL students do have a difficult time describing the process.

**JulieCh:** thanks

**DianeP:** Describe the way you would: Then give them the vocab they need

**EleanorC:** because I'm a ESL student...for a long time

**ChrisA:** I advocated that students should be judged on the types of problems they attempted to solve

**ChadA:** Can they describe with pictures

**VercyH:** I'm also a ESL student

**KristinMJ:** explain Chris...interesting

**ChrisA:** in theory a student's career would be a collection of problems they attempted to solve

**LeannM:** Chris, I always do that, judge on the process, not the product.

**DianeP:** Or maybe I should say - how would you use this vocab list to describe the process of \_\_\_\_\_ fill in the blank

**ErinEP:** manipulatives too

**ChrisA:** that is what their portfolio would entail

**JulieCh:** oh

**KristinMJ:** I see

**BjB:** MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE?!

**KristinMJ:** sure!

**EleanorC:** yeah

**JulieCh:** yes?

**VercyH:** yes

**JuliaMB:** ok

**ChristinW:** ok



**LeannM:** yes

**BjB:** we have about 10 minutes left to the discussion

**ElinaS:** ok

**EleanorC:** right

**ChristinW:** oh

**VercyH:** got it

**ChrisA:** So in theory a student's career would be a collection of problems some given to them in a summative assessment and some of them they chose to attempt to solve

**BjB:** perhaps we should let Chris sum up what he hoped to accomplish today?

**ChadA:** I like the idea Chris...what about standardized test

**ChrisA:** See that is a great question

**VercyH:** I like it

**DianeP** thanks for keeping us on track Bj

**JulieCh:** Thanks to everyone I learn a lot today

**ChrisA:** I think we use standardize test to ensure students can function in our economy and solve problems

**VercyH:** thanks a lot

**ChristinW:** yeah me too

**KristinMJ** like it

**ErinEP:** me too

**VercyH:** you must do a great job on your teaching

**ChristinW:** agree

**EleanorC:** yeah I finally get to see the difference between IBL and PBL

**ChrisA:** I think there is potential to standardize problems to a point where they become the test

**DianeP:** From what I have learned about PBL the standards should fall into the problems

**ChadA:** You got it Diane

**KristinMJ:** true.....as long as you teach the content they will do ok with the problems and with testing bc they will "own" the concepts

**ChrisA:** Ok so this has been a very interesting discussion I would like to thank everyone for showing up tonight. I invite everyone to add to the links list if they find something they would like to share

**DianeP:** The difficulty with testing is that PBL doesn't "look like" the test, so many students/parents/even admin, think they are not getting what they need

**KristinMJ:** thanks Chris

**LeannM:** Thanks Chris.

**ErinEP:** thank you

**KristinMJ:** I agree Diane....

**ChrisA:** Thank you everyone for showing up tonight

**LeannM:** I agree with you Diane.

**ChristinW:** thank you Chris

**VercyH:** thanks u all

**ChadA:** Thanks Chris

**ChristinW:** agree with Diane

**VercyH:** time to say goodbye

**EleanorC:** Thanks Chris

**ChadA:** Thanks all

**JulieCh:** Thank you all

**VercyH:** bye~~~~~

**DavidWe:** Good discussion, Chris

MarieKi: thank you Chris! I am inspired by your idea

**DianeP:** Thanks Chris - a great discussion

**ElinaS:** thanks

**KristinMJ:** good night all....good luck with teaching!!! I love these ideas and appreciate all input!!

**ChristinW:** bye everyone

**ChrisA:** thanks David and thanks for coming tonight

**JulieCh:** I'll keep the chat record and think more about this

**DavidWe** smiles

**DavidWe:** Sure thing

**ChristinW:** me too

**DianeP:** good night!

**LeannM:** What a great resource for all of us to have this discussion.

**ChrisA:** Good Night Diane

**BjB** cheers for Tapped In!

**LeannM:** Good Night!

**BjB :** thanks, Chris. See you next month

**BjB** . o O ( May 21 )