

Title of Session: Problem Based Curriculum

Moderator: Jeff Cooper

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Room: PBC Group

BJB2: Welcome to this month's PBC discussion, everyone.

LienMP: Hi everyone

JeffC: If everyone could take a minute or so to introduce themselves. I'm Jeff Cooper, on Tapped In Helpdesk and I'll be facilitating this session tonight.

ChailleM: Good evening everybody. :)

BJB2: I teach communication in Pennsylvania

ChristinBo: I'm Christine, I'm teaching in Virginia

MichelleDM: hi! I am a student teacher in Houston, TX teaching 6th grade science

ErinG: Hi, I'm in California, and I teach 1st grade.

ChailleM: I'm a student teacher at university of Houston- 8th grade science. science rules! :)

ChristinBo: teaching 6-8 grade and I'm working on my MEd

LienMP: I am a student teacher at University of Houston, Texas

LienMP: Currently in 6th grade math classroom

XingGst1: I am a student, this is my first time visit

JeffC: ok... looking good people!

JeffC: As a guest, Xing, you won't receive a transcript of this session... but all sessions are archived and may be retrieved at <http://www.tappedin.org/transcripts> ...btw... if you click a link here, hold the Ctrl key down, otherwise your popup blocker might log you out.

XingGst1: thanks

JeffC: Tonight I'm going to take you on a little tour of Tapped In, and show you some

sites that will assist you with Global Project Based Learning.

ChristinBo: Cool

JeffC: For now... I'd like to ask you all to *reattach* your chat windows... since we will be indeed using the top frame during this session.

ChailleM: sounds good.

JeffC: So... if you've Detached chat, just close it.

JeffC: That will automatically reattach it.

JeffC: The first stop on this little mini-tour is the 4Teachers room.

JeffC: So... if everyone would click the Welcome link on the left of the top frame, you'll see under "Featured Passageways" a link to the 4Teachers group room... please click that and we'll reconvene there.

ErinG left the room.

BJB2: go ahead, Jeff...I'll bring up the rear

ChailleM left the room.

JeffC left the room.

BJB2: you can also type /join JeffC

BJB2 . o O (start with the /)

LienMP left the room.

MichelleDM left the room.

ChristinBo left the room.

BJB2: Xing?

XingGst1: I am lost

BJB2: type /join JeffC

XingGst1 left the room.

BJB2 left the room.

Room: ALTEC_Tools

BJB2 joined the room.

JeffC: ok... is that everybody?

BJB2: we're all here, Jeff!

JeffC: great

JeffC: ok... now... I've actually set this room up a little differently than others at Tapped In.

JeffC: in the top frame you'll see a number of tools that are available at <http://4teachers.org>

JeffC: normally when you click links at Tapped In, you will open a new window or tab.

JeffC: however, when you click on one of the icons or links in the top frame, it will actually open *in the top frame*.

JeffC: so... if you want to open a new window, you should start by holding your Ctrl key down and clicking <http://4teachers.org> ...then navigate back to this chat window.

JeffC: however, if you're comfortable looking at the top frame and scrolling it, I'd like to start with the PBL Checklist link in the top frame.

BJB2: any questions so far?

JeffC: If you scroll down the top frame, I believe it's the 6th link.

JeffC: oops 7th

JeffC: Once there, you'll see that there are several links... start with "Building Motivation"... if you're unfamiliar with the beauty of project based learning.

ErinG: so they are essentially student friendly rubrics?

JeffC: If you're already sold on the concept... take a look at the checklist links in English (or Spanish).

JeffC: Yes, in a way Erin.

JeffC: There are Checklists for all grade levels in writing, science, oral presentations, and

multimedia.

ChailleM: neat!

ChristinBo: That's a great tool. I haven't heard of it before.

JeffC: so... if everyone could navigate to that page... and look at a PBL Checklist for a grade and subject that interests them, then comment on it here.

MichelleDM: do students create their own checklists?

JeffC: they could... or you could.

JeffC: generally the checklists are teacher generated.

LienMP: that's great tool

ChailleM: How long has this been around?

JeffC: 4teachers.org has been around for quite a while... it used to receive federal funding, but apparently the site was so useful that the feds pulled their funding!

MichelleDM: this is a wonderful tool

JeffC: There are quite a few other very valuable tools there: Trackstar (creating webpages with teacher annotations for sites), Rubistar (rubric generator)... and others that you may view in this room. BTW... you'll have to use your back button to get back to the Welcome screen here at some point.

ChristinBo: I clicked on 5-8th science. I like the wide area that could be covered by each item menu. It allows for added creativity. This is a lot like RubiStar.

JeffC: Right... well... Rubistar is more for assessment... it's done by the same people.

JeffC: Is anyone having trouble viewing the PBL Checklist?

ChristinBo: So, this is to be the guidelines for the project

ChailleM: nope.

JeffC: <http://pblchecklist.4teachers.org/> is the direct link (for your transcripts, or use it now if you're having problems).

JeffC: Yes... project guidelines Christine.

ChristinBo: It makes it simple and fast for teachers who have so much to do already

JeffC: exactly

JeffC: believe it or not... technology can actually make a teacher's (and student's) life *easier* and more interesting!

DongC joined the room.

JeffC: Hi Yaodong

JeffC: We're looking at <http://pblchecklist.4teachers.org/> right now.

ErinG: Does it correlate to state standards?

JeffC: Project Based Learning checklist.

ChristinBo: as long as we have the resources to be able to use it

JeffC: exactly Christine.

DongC: hello, all. Thanks for inviting, Jeff.

DongC bows back to BJ.

JeffC: Well... as far as aligning to standards... it would be nice if they had all the state and national standards hyperlinked within the site... but no such luck.

JeffC: I think that you're pretty much going to have to look at the standards for your own state (and everyone should be able to go to a site where those standards are listed) and then correlate them to your project.

ChristinBo: That would be a challenge, but it would be awesome!

ChailleM: Depending on your standards/objectives, you could modify it.

JeffC: I'd like everyone to navigate back to the Welcome screen now.

JeffC: use your back button.

JeffC: before we leave this room, I'd like to encourage all of you to join this group.

JeffC: in order to do that, scroll down the Welcome screen a bit, and in the "Welcome to ALTEC's 4teachers.org" box... click the little "i" in the green circle next to the link for this group.

JeffC: then click the link to "join this group."

JeffC: we've had special calendared events here before... and there is really much more to see at 4teachers.org than I have time to show you tonight.

JeffC: hopefully I can get some of them to come back and hold another session. after Tapped In, 4teachers.org is what I think the most useful site for educators!

JeffC: after you've joined (and even if you haven't)... click the Room View button to take you back to the Welcome screen... and then scroll down to "Featured Passageways."

JeffC: Our next stop is the "Takingitglobal" room.

JeffC: Scroll down to the bottom of the top screen and you'll see a link to the room... click that and we'll reconvene there.

BJB2: click on Room View to get back to the welcome screen

JeffC left the room.

MichelleDM left the room.

XingGst1 left the room.

LienMP left the room.

SusanR left the room.

BJB2: Erin?

BJB2: type /join JeffC Start with the /

ErinG left the room.

BJB2 left the room.

DongC left the room.

Room: TIG_Grp

BJB2 joined the room.

JeffC: OK... this is a room for an internationally run student site.

DongC joined the room.

JeffC: I met the creator, Michael Furyk at NECC a few years ago.

JeffC: <http://www.takingitglobal.org>

ChailleM: interesting.

JeffC: I recommend this site to all educators interested in global project based learning... register there and you (and your class) will instantly become part of a global community.

JeffC: There's also a link to the educator's toolset at <http://www.tiged.org/>

ChristinBo: I think that would really intrigue students interests

DongC: registering now

JeffC: Today I was substitute teaching ESL at a middle school. The kids were watching "Emmanuel's Gift" <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0447016/> ...which shows the story of Emmanuel, from Ghana, who was without a leg. With the help of a group in San Diego, they built and delivered several hundred wheelchairs to people in his village. After the movie, and after the kids did their worksheet... I asked them what the message was. It was difficult for them to grasp the concept that they could actually help others around the world.

JeffC: I gave them a link to Takingitglobal, and also to Nabuur (also linked above)... which is another great site... <http://www.nabuur.com>

ChailleM: This is a good way for students to become more informed and aware of the world around them.

MichelleDM: This website is a great way to connect the students globally.

JeffC: We're still in the 19th Century in education... kids are bored to death with school (and they were bored by the movie)... but during lunch one of the kids actually checked out Takingitglobal... and I think with support they could actually see the relevance and become more involved.

BJB2 . o O (Linda Ullah's Global Project Based Learning discussion in Tapped In is November 29...another wonderful resource for learning about GPBL opportunities)

ChristinBo: I think it is hard especially for the younger kids to grasp what is going on outside their community. I always try to find some kind of interesting linkage to draw them in with

EsmeraldaS: Interesting

JeffC: So... what I'd like to suggest to people here today is to register at the above sites, and see how you could indeed make global project based learning work for you, and your students... and although I personally *hate* standards based approaches to curriculum, I would be willing at some point to speak with teachers as to how they could align said standards with the above mentioned sites.

ErinG: sometimes it's hard for them to understand what's happening in their community too

JeffC: I told the students about a village in Uganda where the girls had no school... no books... and our Nabuur village arranged to send books to them.

ChailleM: Sometimes, if they (students) do not get this information at school, then they will not receive the information at all.

JeffC: Now... what "standards" would be addressed by that? Off the top of my head I don't have a clue... but I do know that it involves problem solving... so... maybe something in math?

BJB2: economics? social studies?

ChailleM: Community economy, government?

MichelleDM: social studies

JeffC: I do know that by immersing students in sites as the above, that you'll be doing a greater benefit to their education than having them simply reading "facts" about countries out of their textbooks... and it will be an experience that will live with them forever.

ErinG: geography, writing prompts

LienMP: math

JeffC: there you go... see... there's a way to do it!

JeffC: questions/comments?

MichelleDM: influence them to think beyond themselves

ChailleM: especially with students their own age

EsmeraldaS: I agree, Jeff

ErinG: what ages are represented?

MichelleDM: They may hear about things that happen half way around the world, but

without that real life connection, it is hard for them to relate.

JeffC: exactly Michelle

EsmeraldaS: I agree

JeffC: and "facts" are bloody boring!

JeffC: how many facts do you remember from high school... or even college?

JeffC: especially related to social studies and economics?

ChailleM: not many.

EsmeraldaS: right

MichelleDM: Facts are not what stick with you- it's the deep understanding that actually made you feel something that really sticks with you.

JeffC: now... do a *project*... and you'll not only remember... you'll have something for your portfolio regarding community action that will set you head and shoulders above the competition when applying for choice colleges!

SusanR . o O (I don't remember much, truthfully. I am learning more here at tapped in)

JeffC: right Michelle!

EsmeraldaS: true

JeffC: ok... I have one more room I'd like to show people... however... Xing... as a guest, you aren't allowed!

JeffC: It's a 2nd grade classroom that I created here at Tapped In two years ago for my daughter.

JeffC: I want to leave you with some idea of how you may use Tapped In in the future to engender learning for your students.

ChailleM: you learn through experience, not just reading about something.

JeffC: I don't want to leave Xing behind, but for security reasons, guests aren't allowed in the K-12 Campus.

JeffC: When I leave here, type: /join JeffC

XingGst1: that's fine, thanks

SusanR . o O (always enjoys visiting and revisiting this grade 2 classroom)

JeffC: That will be the only way for you to get there. Xing, I'd recommend registering and coming back.

JeffC: then you may join us.

JeffC left the room.

MichelleDM left the room.

LienMP left the room.

ErinG left the room.

SusanR left the room.

ChailleM left the room.

BJB2 left the room.

Room: Matzke_Grade2

BJB2 joined the room.

JeffC: Is that everybody?

JeffC: ok... what you see in the top frame is a picture of Deep Space along with portal links to space sites.

ChristinBo: I wish my website was so colorful!

EsmeraldaS joined the room.

JeffC: my daughter's class did powerpoints on the Solar System... with the teacher's and my help.

JeffC: you may even download hers (Nora.ppt) in the top frame.

EsmeraldaS: That's great!

JeffC: I'm showing you because I want you to know that even 2nd graders can use tech to best effect.

EsmeraldaS: Awesome!

JeffC: now... a little magic trick...

ChristinBo: Kids are extremely tech savvy...it comes in pretty handy

JeffC: click the Welcome link on the left of the top frame.

JeffC: presto changeo! you will now see a picture of a school and a different set of Portal Sites.

ChristinBo: I have 15 computers in my room and I try to use them as often as possible and the kids love using them instead of listening to me

JeffC: the picture is of a school that my daughter's class collaborated with... their letters to each other may be read in Discussion.

JeffC: the teacher and I typed them... the kids wrote longhand... and they wrote much more than they did on "normal" writing assignments.

JeffC: again... *relevance* is key... getting kids involved is key... motivate them! collaborating with other schools really gets kids doing their best work... they are excited to reach out to students in other states or around the world.

JeffC: now... on Saturday mornings at 11a.m. Pacific I give weekly tours of the K-12 Campus and help teachers set up their own classrooms here.

BJB2 looks at the clock on the wall

JeffC: I'd like to encourage all of you to come back then... and come back to Tapped In often!

JeffC: Our time is up for today, and I'd like to thank all of you for coming and exploring a bit... what the possibilities are!

BJB2 . o O (and join the GPBL discussion on Nov. 29)

BJB2: Thanks, Jeff!

ChristinBo: this was very helpful...gives me some new tools

ChristinBo: Thanks!!

ErinG: Thank you!

LienMP: Thank You

JeffC: Right... Linda Ullah will be leading a GPBL session on the 29th... please click the Tapped In tab in the top frame and the Calendar subtab to see all the events and tours.

MichelleDM: thank you! These tools are very helpful.

JeffC: You're all very welcome, and please feel free to forward this to your peers.

ChristinBo: I will def. share!

JeffC: You may email me at jbcoops@gmail.com or simply ask questions of me (or Bj, etc.) any time here.

ChailleM: thank you for all of the helpful resources and info. :)

SusanR: thanks Jeff, excellent as usual