

Project-Based Learning.....Where do I start?

Questions to help you plan a PBL project or to *shift* some of your current units/topics towards an inquiry focus.

1. What important concepts are fundamental to the topic you are teaching? What are the enduring concepts?
2. Why do these concepts matter? Why are they important?
3. Outside school, who cares about these topics? What is their relevance in different people's lives and in different parts of the world?
4. Think about the real-life contexts for your topic. What are the interdisciplinary connections? What other subjects might be integrated?
5. How might you go beyond rote learning with this topic? Consider how you might go beyond rote learning to analysis, evaluation and creation?
6. Are there authentic ways that students can use technology tools to engage in this project? Is there an opportunity for collaboration, digital tools, and information literacy?
7. What aspects of the topic will be of most interest to your students? Is there something that would captivate them as you launch the project?
8. What learning skills might you help students focus on and how will you build in reflection to the project?

adapted from *Reinventing Project-Based Learning: Your Field Guide to Real-World Projects in the Digital Age* by Suzie Boss and Jane Krauss (ISTE, 2007)