

## Websites that Support Project-Based Learning (PBL)

*Compiled by Jay McTighe*

Please send me links to other great PBL resources so that I can add to this list.

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**Note:** You may have to “cut and paste” the URL to access the site if the hyperlink is not automatic.

**PBL Works** (formerly The Buck Institute) is the leading organization in North America for Project-based Learning. Their website contains many valuable resources.

<https://tinyurl.com/yclshxe4>

Examples of model projects:

[https://my.pblworks.org/projects?f%5B0%5D=grade\\_level%3A580](https://my.pblworks.org/projects?f%5B0%5D=grade_level%3A580)

**Expeditionary Learning** offers a library of interdisciplinary projects.

<http://modelsofexcellence.ededucation.org/projects>

**The Center for High Quality Student Work** offers a searchable database of interdisciplinary projects.

<http://modelsofexcellence.ededucation.org/projects>

**GlobalSchool.Net** – offers an array of PBL-related examples. Click on “Collaborate Now” then “Featured Projects” for project examples.

<http://www.globalschoolnet.org/>

**Edutopia** – The George Lucas Educational Foundation includes video clips highlighting exemplary projects. Search their general website for “Project-based Learning.”

<https://edutopia.org>

**Challenge-based Learning** – Digital Promise engages learners in applying technology in learning challenges and product designs.

<http://digitalpromise.org/our-approach/>

**High Tech High School** in San Diego, CA offers many examples of authentic projects with rubrics and student samples.

<http://www.hightechhigh.org/projects/>

**Galileo** offers resources for Inquiry and Project-Based Learning, including a Rubric for judging inquiry-based projects

<http://galileo.org/> and <http://galileo.org/rubric.pdf>

**Great Student Work** – Project-based Learning expert, Bob Pearlman, offers links to exceptional project examples and assessments from around the globe.

<http://www.bobpearlman.org/BestPractices/StudentWork.htm>

**Destination Imagination** – project-based design challenges that emphasize creativity, critical thinking, communication, and teamwork skills

<https://www.destinationimagination.org/challenge-program/2018-19-challenge-previews/>

**Defined STEM** has developed 100+ performance tasks/projects and associated rubrics based on various career areas. The tasks use the GRASPS format from UbD to establish an authentic scenario. A unique feature is the inclusion of a motivating video that shows “real world” applications of knowledge to set up the task. While the title suggests that the tasks fall into the STEM arena, there are tasks in English/Language Arts and History/Social Studies, as well.

(Note: This site requires a paid subscription.)

<http://www.definedstem.com>

**PBL Pathways** contains project ideas for advanced mathematics.

<http://www.pblpathways.com/projects.html>

A list of 350 “passion projects”

Passion Projects Fuel Student-Driven Learning

**Charleston Collegiate School** shares sample project.

<https://www.charlestoncollegiate.org/project-based-learning/project-gallery>

**C-SPAN** sponsors *Student Cam*, an annual video documentary competition!

<http://www.studentcam.org>

**The WPI Industrial Mathematics Project** for high school students has developed over 20 industrial mathematics projects drawn from a variety of real-world situations. These engaging projects are available for every level of high school mathematics, from Algebra to Calculus and Statistics. The length and scope of these projects is flexible. Each project contains enough material for a major, semester-long endeavor, but its component parts can be used in a shorter project or for scaffolding activities.

<http://www.wpi.edu/academics/math/CIMS/IMPHSS/projects.html>

**What Kids Can Do** – A national nonprofit organization focused on student voice has links to several outstanding projects. Scroll down to “Shout Outs/Archives” and “Cultural Conversations Through Writing.”

<http://whatkidscando.org/index.html>

**Stanford University** – has developed a project-based learning resource targeted for post secondary students.

<http://pbl.stanford.edu/index.html>

**National Academy Foundation/Pearson Foundation’s** Partnerships for America’s Youth offers a comprehensive Project-based Learning Guide for educators and Program Coordinators.

[http://kupuhouacademy.weebly.com/uploads/2/0/3/0/20309617/pbl\\_guide\\_w\\_6as.pdf](http://kupuhouacademy.weebly.com/uploads/2/0/3/0/20309617/pbl_guide_w_6as.pdf)

**STEM Transitions** offers a collection of STEM projects. Click on the following website to register (free) for access to the projects.

<http://www.stemtransitions.org/>

**Iowa Big** offers community-based PBLs for High Schools. Students gain agency and time management skills by solving community problems with nonprofit, business, and government agencies.

<https://www.iowabig.org>

**Houghton Mifflin’s Project-Based Learning Space** offers in-depth discussion of project-based learning, including an overview of the issues surrounding it, the student’s role in the process and several projects for getting started.

<http://college.cengage.com/education/pbl/index.html>

**CIESE/Stevens Institute of Technology** – This website offers suggestions for project-based learning and lessons, with an emphasis on collaboration, higher order thinking skills and critical analysis in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as language arts and the social sciences.

<http://www.k12science.org/currichome.html>

**Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC)** – Funded by the Gates Foundation, the LDC has developed a set of task templates and instructional modules linked to the Common Core E/LA Standards. The templates support the integration of the E/LA Standards with content from Science, Social Studies and Technical subjects and can be used to generate and structure project ideas.

<https://ldc.org/>

**TUVA LABS** – This website offers a variety of data-related projects and analysis tools for math and science, as well as to develop argumentation and reasoning skills, applicable to E/LA, as well. Requires a free sign up to access the resources.

<https://tuvalabs.com/>

**Global Challenges Project** – An excellent example of how the United Nations Global Challenges was used as the basis for authentic projects in West Windsor Township Schools (NJ).

<http://markwise8.wixsite.com/globalchallenge>

An article from *Educational Leadership* about the above-referenced Global Challenge Project example.

<http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/oct17/vol75/num02/Middle-Schoolers-Go-Global.aspx>

**Coalition of Essential Schools** – A video documenting high school Senior Exhibitions

<https://vimeo.com/album/3850195/video/158830952>

**Harvard University** offers EcoXPT is a FREE, immersive simulation for middle school in which students use inquiry to learn how ecosystems work. Students engage in scientific skills of *observation, data collection, measurement, and experimentation*. EcoXPT includes a Teachers' Guide, 14 lesson plans with PowerPoints, rubrics and accompanying videos to help students learn how scientists think. <https://ecolearn.gse.harvard.edu/projects/ecoxpt>

**Annenberg** – A video example of PBL for Social Studies grades 9 – 12.

[https://www.learner.org/libraries/socialstudies/9\\_12/weir/video.html](https://www.learner.org/libraries/socialstudies/9_12/weir/video.html)

**PBL Network/Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy** – A publication called "Project-based Learning Matters," including suggestions for projects for K – Adult beginning on page 11.

<http://dmfa3ba8wpmh6.cloudfront.net/00/000147887cd534a7df9b7cb7e90001/file/112574-PBLMatters.pdf>

**World Peace Games** – John Hunter created the World Peace Games, which is an example of project-based learning, which focuses on understanding the global community and applying that understanding to an authentic context. While designed for upper elementary, the game can easily be adapted for older students.

<https://worldpeacegame.org/>

**Teaching Tolerance** – This site takes you to one of the many classroom resources, specifically, performance tasks for K – 12. The tasks are organized as "Do Something" (K-12) and "Write to the Source" (3 – 12).

<https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/student-tasks>

**Teach Thought** – This site provides Project-based Learning workshop tools and resources.

<https://wegrowteachers.com/pblworkshop/>

Though this learning platform phased out in July 2013, the extensive library archive of projects remains. This library can guide you through numerous projects and help you find the inspiration to create unique projects for your own classroom.

**Project Foundry** – A paid website offering practical resources for PBL implementation including project design, project management tools for students and teachers, rubrics and reporting tools. (*Note: This site requires a paid subscription.*)

<http://www.projectfoundry.com/>

### **PBL Units**

Projects based associated with state and national parks

[http://www.bie.org/blog/open\\_your\\_classroom\\_door\\_to\\_ca\\_state\\_parks\\_pbl\\_ports\\_program](http://www.bie.org/blog/open_your_classroom_door_to_ca_state_parks_pbl_ports_program)

Ideas for generating driving questions for projects

[http://www.bie.org/blog/a\\_tricky\\_part\\_of\\_pbl\\_writing\\_a\\_driving\\_question](http://www.bie.org/blog/a_tricky_part_of_pbl_writing_a_driving_question)

[http://www.bie.org/blog/lowering\\_the\\_driving\\_question\\_age](http://www.bie.org/blog/lowering_the_driving_question_age)

### **RUBRIC RESOURCES**

**New York State Performance Assessment Consortium** offers a collection of quality rubrics.

<http://performanceassessment.org/performance/prubrics.html>

**Winona State University** has compiled a wide variety of rubrics in various courses and subject areas.

<http://course1.winona.edu/shatfield/air/rubrics.htm>

**The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)** has developed Writing Rubrics for Argumentation, Explanatory, Informational, Narrative and Opinion writing.

<https://www.smarterbalanced.org/assessments/practice-and-training-tests/resources-and-documentation/>

The **Exemplars** company offers analytic rubrics for Mathematics (problem solving), Science, Reading (responding to text), Writing, and Research.

<http://www.exemplars.com/resources/rubrics/assessment.php>

*Updated May 13, 2020*

A holistic rubric for **Document-Based Questions**

<http://www.historyteacher.net/rubric.htm>

**New Tech Network** offers rubrics for a variety of subject areas (middle school)

<https://newtechnetwork.org/resources/new-tech-network-middle-school-rubrics/>

Rubrics for **Communication** and **Collaboration** (elementary and middle school)

<https://newtechnetwork.org/resources/elementary-revised-elementary-ntn-rubrics/>

**Argumentation** rubric (secondary level)

<https://32dkl02ezpk0qcqvqmlx19lk-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/elaargumentexplangrade82015.pdf>

\* **Measures of Youth Policy Arguments** – a rubric for assessing the quality of presentations by young people about public policy issues.

<https://studentsmakingpolicy.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/MYPA-Comprehensive-Rubric-Paper-Version-July-12-2017-2.pdf>

**Checklists** tied to a variety of skills associated with Project Based Learning.

<http://pblchecklist.4teachers.org/checklist.shtml>

**Podcast** on Project-based Learning – Ten experts offer suggestions for implementing PBL

<https://tinyurl.com/y7d8jdar>