Mythbusting PBL

Dr. Jenny Pieratt, CraftED Curriculum

Thursday Nov 7, 1:45 - 2:45 pm, Delta Lobby A, SL13 - Table K

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Meet Dr. Jenny Pieratt~ mom, author, educator, PBL nerd



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The current wave of PBL adoptors is fighting to survive in conditions that can be extremely challenging to this style of learning.

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he sounds of papers shuffling, little fingerstyping or building, and low voices discussing the task in front of them, accompanied by the blissful noise of purposeful footsteps and the soothing hum of young voices engaging in academic discourse. These are the productive sounds that every innovative educator hopes will permeate their dassoom. In the world of project-based learning (PBL) we call it the bazz.

JENNY PIERATT

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People casually refer to this buzz as something dreamy that magically happens once a teacher has mentally committed to PBL. However, in my work supporting PBL implementation across the country, I have found that there is a growing disconnect between the vision of the healthy buzz that comes from student engagement while working on a project and how we as educators actually get our students there. Truth be told, it is anarchy in the classroom more often than it's not. Teachers often think that in order to get to this type of student-driven engagement, they must almost completely remove themselves from the equation to allow students to drive their learning. This mindset is rarely productive, often leaves all stakeholders frustrated with the PBL experience, and doesn't ensure that our children are actually learning.

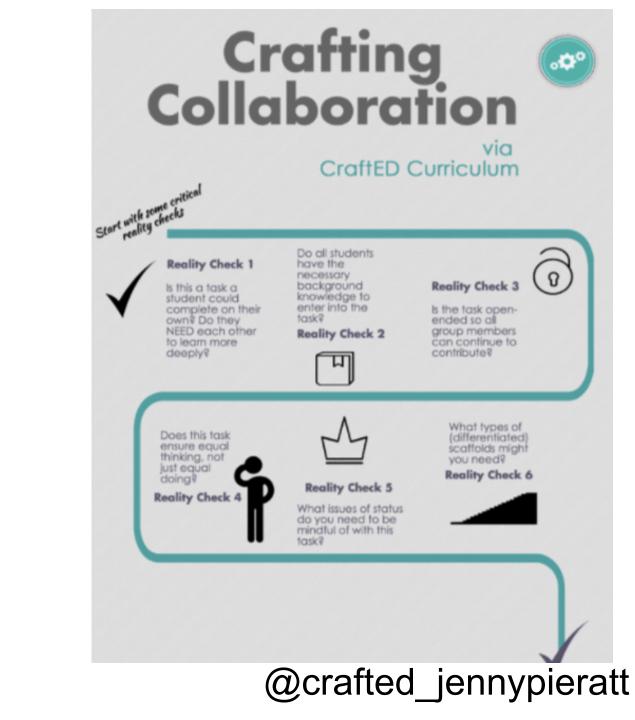
As educators, we have romanticized PBL in many ways and have not been honest about the reality most teachers face in their classrooms and the adjustments they must make for PBL to be effective. As a result, we have sacrificed the rigor that is essential to deeper learning. It's time for some *trealtalk* about PBL Debunking these five myths tones down the hype around PBL and instead honors the struggles of teachers in the trenches who make up the new wave of mainstream educators looking to adopt this approach to teaching and learning.



All things must be collaborative in PBL.

With collaboration as one of the four Cs central to the 21st century skills movement, schools have placed a great emphasis on students working in groups, and PBL is frequently seen as an easy whicle for facilitating collaboration.

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students should have "voice and choice" over all things.



Student voice & choice does NOT mean anarchy!

Some structure in PBL is OK, people!



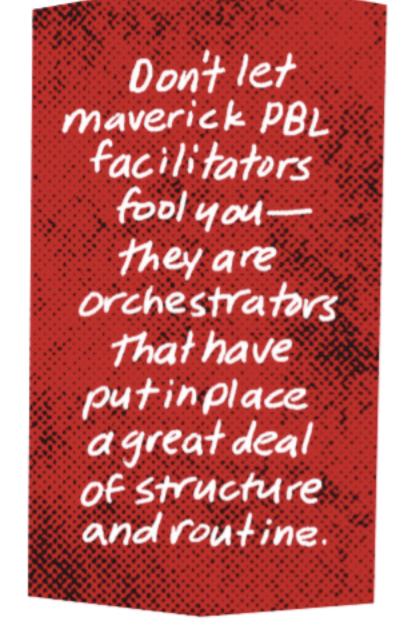


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The teacher should always take the back seat.













Assessment isn't a dirty word in PBL

Benchmarks, ongoing (and sometimes even traditional) assessment & feedback lead to high quality projects





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Additional Resources

- Keep it Real with PBL by Jenny Pieratt
- PBL e-courses www.coursesbycrafted.com
- PBL Resources: https://craftedcurriculum.com/project-based-learning-ideas/
- Teaching Channel: Assessment and other dirty words <u>https://www.teachingchannel.org/blog/2018/01</u>, <u>assessment-dirty-words/</u>

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Session Evaluation

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