

PBL to the Rescue!



Brian Duncan
Attica Jr./Sr. High School

My Awkward Problem

- ✂ Brand New Class
- ✂ New 1:1 Computing Initiative
- ✂ There are no textbooks...and there won't be any!
- ✂ Switching to MyBigCampus
- ✂ I Just got trained and added to the PBL training team

What's in the Tool Box?

- ✎ State Standards
- ✎ 8 Wannabe doctors, nurses and therapists
- ✎ Laptops for Everyone
- ✎ Local Experts and Friends in the Medical Field
- ✎ A Spirit of Adventure
- ✎ I Just got trained and added to the PBL training team

What did I really need them to know?

∞ What did the state standards look like...

- Basic Anatomical Terminology
- Basic Biochemistry
- Individual Body Systems
 - They all looked the same...
 - What is each system made of?
 - How does each system work?
 - How does it relate to the medical profession?

Lightbulb Moment!

The Driving Question for EVERY unit would be exactly the same...

How does each body system do it's job and how does it interact with each of the others?



One HUGE PBL

The Whole Class

All Day...Every Day

Put the Kids in Charge of Their Own Learning

How do I structure it?

- ✂ We Learn Best What We Teach...The kids should teach each other
 - Each group would become the expert on a particular body system each nine weeks and teach that unit
- ✂ They have to know all the standards not just the part they're experts in...they will have to learn from each other
- ✂ This stuff is kinda tough and they are not teachers...they are gonna need structure, and help

The Skeleton

- ∞ Time to research and become experts
- ∞ Each group teaches their unit
- ∞ Everyone is assessed on each unit
- ∞ Prove you ARE an expert

Assessment

- ∞ Unit Creation
- ∞ In-Unit Activities
 - Lab or Interactive Activities
 - Unit Test
- ∞ Expert Presentation

Scaffolding

These guys aren't teachers...or doctors. They are gonna need some help teaching each other.

Basic Expectations for the Unit:

- ✂ Introduction and Handout of Terminology and Geography
- ✂ Must Include a Hands-On Activity
- ✂ Topics and Outlines of Major Functions of the system
 - Topics they can do and ones that they need help with
- ✂ List of Potential Essay Questions
- ✂ Common Questions, Ailments or Phenomena that occur with the system
- ✂ Medical of Information
- ✂ Calendar

Making It Real

Experts communicate with other experts. If you are going to be the class expert your expert presentation should be to other experts....



“Hello, St. Vincent’s Hospital. How can I help you?”

...Insert evil laughter here 😊

The Birth of the Grand Rounds Presentation!!!

Final Product

☞ 9 weeks=45 Instructional Days

- 10 Days to Become Experts and Prepare Units
- 4 Units of 7-8 Days Each...Including Intro and Test
- 5 Days for Grand Rounds Prep and Presentations

☞ Assessments

- Unit Packets and Checkpoints
- Activity in Each Unit
- Test in Each Unit
- Grand Rounds Presentations

Questions and Other Stuff

- ∞ Other PBLs that I have tried or want to try:
 - Physics- How do we know all these formulas actually represent reality?
 - 7th Grade Science-
 - Everyone loves Pangea...that's 250 mya...what happens in another 250 million?
 - How do alternatives to fossil fuels fit into our lives?
 - Biology I- How would you prepare the defense for the Scopes trial?