

Better PBL on Buzz



New Tech Network

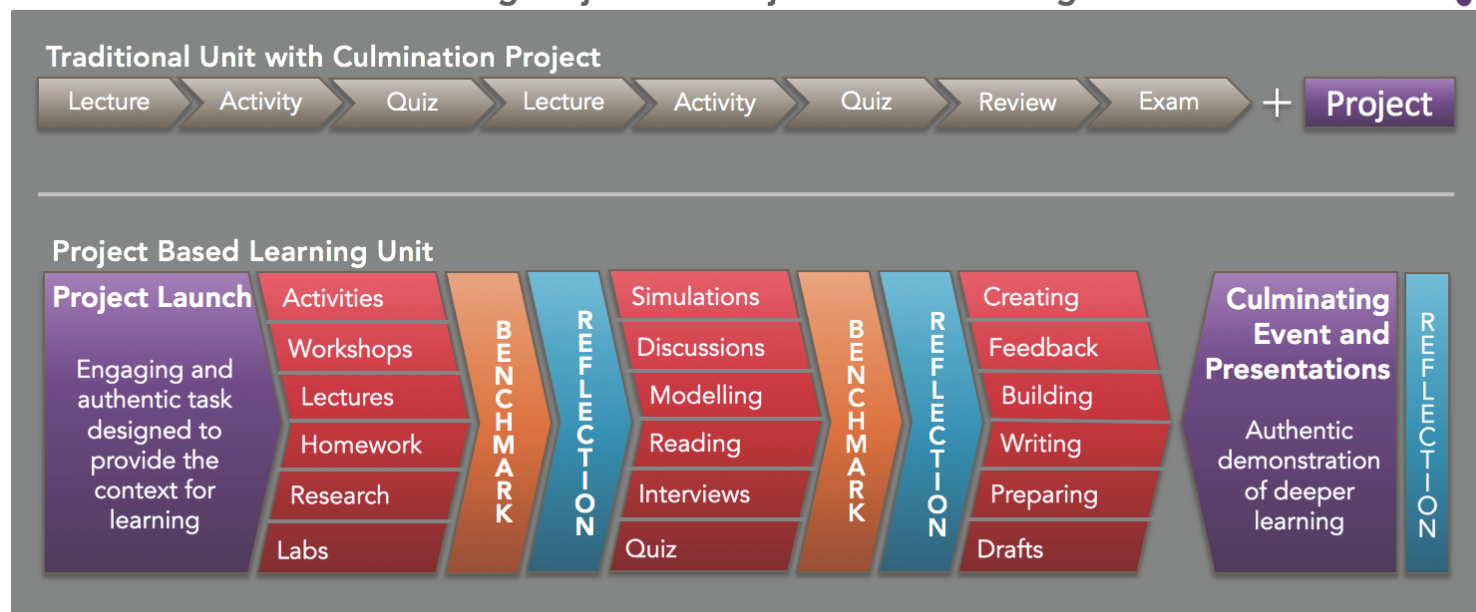
Project-based learning (PBL) is a student-centered learning model in which students collaborate to solve authentic, complex problems using 21st century skills (e.g., critical thinking, research, global and environmental awareness, creativity).

True PBL:

- Empowers students to have a voice and choice in how projects progress.
- Incorporates organic exploration of required, cross-disciplinary subject matter.
- Asks participants to work toward producing a shareable product, requiring critique, reflection, and revision along the way.

It's critical to recognize that PBL is not just having students do a project after all the "traditional learning" is complete. As outlined in this graphic, PBL impacts learning from beginning to end.

Doing Projects vs. Project Based Learning



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New Tech Network: Leaders in Personalized PBL

As a leading design partner of comprehensive school change for nearly 20 years, the [New Tech Network \(NTN\)](#) uses extensive planning, designing, and implementation supports that prove:

- Schools can inspire and engage all students from every demographic and community type.
- Teachers can offer relevant and authentic learning experiences in all subjects.
- Students can develop skills essential for both college and career, in addition to mastering academic outcomes.

PBL is at the heart of the NTN's instructional approach. As leaders in personalizing PBL, they work closely with nearly 200 districts and schools, helping to transform them into innovative learning environments.

NTN's Echo: Powered by Agilix Buzz

In order to implement effective and scalable personalized PBL for the next generation, NTN needed a cutting-edge, collaborative project-based learning environment. In 2016, they delivered the latest version of Echo, completely relaunched on the Buzz learning platform.

[Buzz provides the powerful features and flexibility NTN needs to engage learners in authentic PBL instruction.](#)



Echo supports PBL and includes an innovative gradebook that aligns to the deeper learning skills students will need in college and career:

- **Echo's Tools:** The architecture and feature sets are aligned to personalized Project Based Learning with a multidimensional gradebook that is organized around the assessment and reporting of student outcomes (skills) rather than assignments. Features include learning activities, peer review, group submissions, student choice activities, and access to OER content.
- **Echo's Content:** Teachers, students, and parents at New Tech schools use Echo on a daily basis to access course resources, exemplar projects, project plans, assignments and an extensive library of instructional resources for teachers. Educators have the opportunity to create projects and learning activities and access to project and resource libraries.
- **Echo's Community:** Echo allows schools to more easily exchange best practices, collaborate in real time, connect and share projects, and develop cross school projects for students. In short, the Echo community is vibrant and growing.

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