

Essential Project Design Elements Checklist

Whatever form a project takes, it must meet these criteria to be Gold Standard PBL.

Does the Project Meet These Criteria?			
<p>KEY KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING, AND SUCCESS SKILLS The project is focused on teaching students key knowledge and understanding derived from standards, and success skills including critical thinking/problem solving, collaboration, and self-management.</p>			
<p>CHALLENGING PROBLEM OR QUESTION The project is based on a meaningful problem to solve or a question to answer, at the appropriate level of challenge for students, which is operationalized by an open-ended, engaging driving question.</p>			
<p>SUSTAINED INQUIRY The project involves an active, in-depth process over time, in which students generate questions, find and use resources, ask further questions, and develop their own answers.</p>			
<p>AUTHENTICITY The project has a real-world context, uses real-world processes, tools, and quality standards, makes a real impact, and/or is connected to students' own concerns, interests, and identities.</p>			
<p>STUDENT VOICE & CHOICE The project allows students to make some choices about the products they create, how they work, and how they use their time, guided by the teacher and depending on their age and PBL experience.</p>			
<p>REFLECTION The project provides opportunities for students to reflect on what and how they are learning, and on the project's design and implementation.</p>			
<p>CRITIQUE & REVISION The project includes processes for students to give and receive feedback on their work, in order to revise their ideas and products or conduct further inquiry.</p>			
<p>PUBLIC PRODUCT The project requires students to demonstrate what they learn by creating a product that is presented or offered to people beyond the classroom.</p>			

Employer Priorities for Most Important College Learning Outcomes



★ Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World

- Knowledge and understanding of democratic institutions and values 87% ■
- Broad knowledge in the liberal arts and sciences 78% ■
- Intercultural skills and understanding of societies and cultures outside the US 78% ■

★ Intellectual and Practical Skills

- Oral communication 85% ♦
- Teamwork skills in diverse groups 83% ♦
- Written communication 82% ♦
- Critical thinking and analytic reasoning 81% ♦
- Complex problem solving 70% ♦
- Information literacy 68% ♦
- Innovation and creativity 65% ♦
- Technological skills 60% ♦
- Quantitative reasoning 56% ♦

★ Personal and Social Responsibility

- Problem solving in diverse settings 96% ■
- Civic knowledge, skills, and judgment essential for contributing to the community and to our democratic society 86% ■
- Ethical judgment and decision making 81% ♦

★ Integrative and Applied Learning

- Applied knowledge in real-world settings 80% ♦

Note: These data are taken from *Falling Short? College Learning and Career Success*, a 2015 report on findings from a survey of employers and a survey of college students conducted for AAC&U by Hart Research Associates. For a full report on this survey and earlier reports on employer views, see www.aacu.org/leap.

■ indicates percentage of employers who "strongly agree" or "somewhat agree" that, "regardless of a student's chosen field of study," every student should attain this area of knowledge or skill.

♦ indicates percentage of employers who rate this outcome as very important (8-10 on a 10 point scale) for recent graduates entering the job market.