



Introduction to PBL

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Characteristics Needed in College Graduates

High level of communication skills

Ability to define problems, gather and
evaluate information, develop solutions

Team skills -- ability to work with others

Ability to use all of the above to address
problems in a complex real-world setting

Quality Assurance in Undergraduate Education (1994)
Wingspread Conference, ECS, Boulder, CO.



What Is PBL?

“The principal idea behind PBL is that the starting point for learning should be a problem, a query, or a puzzle that the learner wishes to solve.”

Boud, D. (1985) PBL in perspective. In “PBL in Education for the Professions,” D. J. Boud (ed); p. 13.

What are the Common Features of PBL?



Learning is initiated by a problem.

Problems are based on complex, real-world situations.

All information needed to solve problem is not given initially.

Students identify, find, and use appropriate resources.

Students work in permanent groups.

Learning is active, integrated, cumulative, and connected.



Forming Heterogeneous Groups Without Prior Information

- Math, Phys. Sci, or Engineering major in college, add 25 25
- Biological or Health Sciences in college, add 50 -
- Business or Economics major in college, add 75 -
- Humanities, Soc. Sci. or Educ. In college, add 100 -
- If you are Male, add 100 100
- If you are Female, add 200 -
- If you are not employed by the Univ. of Del, add 200 -
- If you are comfortable using a wiki, add 400 -
- Sum the last 4 digits of your office Phone Number 19
- GRAND TOTAL (Your Number) 144

**When you have calculated "Your Number",
line up in numerical order.**



Two Truths and a Lie

- Make a list of *three* interesting things about yourself, *one of which is false*.
- Each group member in turn share your list with the others in your group and see if they can guess which item is false.

Example:

- I have skydived more than 20 times.
- I am writing a book about dragonflies.
- I have lived in Scotland.