

Problem Based Learning (PBL)

What is Problem Based Learning?

Problem based learning is an instructional strategy in which students work collaboratively in small groups (under the guidance of a tutor) to solve a problem (a complex task the student will face in the working environment). Originally introduced into the medical school curriculum by McMaster University, it is now an educational format used in programs around the world.

Educational Value

- Increased retention of information.
- Development of an integrated knowledge base.
- Increased learner motivation.
- Development of critical thinking skills.

Examples of Classroom Application

- Problem Based Learning Home Page. Queens University
<http://meds.queensu.ca/medicine/pbl/pblhome.htm>
- Sample Tutorials
<http://www2.imsa.edu/programs/pbln/tutorials/>
- University of Delaware sample problems
<http://www.udel.edu/pbl/problems/>

Getting Started

Contact the CID at cid@vcc.ca. An IA can help you determine if PBL is right for your class and explain how to plan a lesson using PBL.

More Information

Educational:

- The PBL handbook:
<http://meds.queensu.ca/medicine/pbl/pblhome.htm#contents>
- Wee, K.N., Kek, Y.C., Sim, H.C. (2001). Crafting Effective Problems for Problem based Learning. *PBL Conference*.
[http://vbus.tp.edu.sg/cbr/mkg/3rd%20AP%20PBL%20Conference%202001%20-%20Crafting%20Effective%20Problems%20for%20PBL%20\(9Dec2001\).pdf](http://vbus.tp.edu.sg/cbr/mkg/3rd%20AP%20PBL%20Conference%202001%20-%20Crafting%20Effective%20Problems%20for%20PBL%20(9Dec2001).pdf)

References:

- Savery, J. R., Duffy, T. M. (1995). Problem Based Learning: An Instructional Model and Its Constructivist Framework. *Educational Technology*, 35 (5), p31-38
<http://cee.indiana.edu/publications/journals/TR16-01.pdf>