



## Secondary-school science teacher

*"Technology can improve teaching and learning"*

Secondary School Blanca d'Anjou

Now that the Project is over, I admit diving into Project-based learning was beneficial. Planning and managing the Project was really challenging, and the daily classroom chaos stretched my comfort zone significantly. The most important thing I learned in this Project is helping my students make learning come alive.

I have discovered that, while teaching the content is critical, the large challenge involves creating educational lessons that are stimulating and meet the needs of my students as they actively explore real-world problems and challenges and acquire a deeper knowledge.

One of the benefits of PBL (Project-Based Learning) is that students start to see learning as interdisciplinary. They learn to collaborate with others because they have the opportunity to be creative in how they think about a real problem and then put their own spin on a solution. Every student is able to shine through his or her talent. Students make connections between different content areas as well as developing deeper critical thinking skills while they are learning content.

PBL is a different way of teaching, but requires careful planning, presentation and scaffolding, besides it is necessary to provide a clear checklist of requirements, goals, helpful tips, and rubrics to support success in the classroom. It is very important to plan ahead and anticipate any challenge that students may encounter. In this case, knowledge becomes relevant when applied to real-world situations.

At the end of the Project, my students shared their products in small groups, they were working in cooperative groups all the time.

Apart from this, in my view, PBL transforms the teacher into expert facilitator and the best of it is the power of reflection. Students need time to reflect on and assess their own learning, because reflection is the key to a meaningful learning experience.

Overall, I was very impressed with the level of dedication and motivation that my students put into their projects. My hope is that they become lifelong learners who are civically engaged in the world around them.

Next year, I would incorporate new little things. My students felt a sense of ownership toward their learning that I had not really seen before. I want to provide more time and opportunity for presentation, peer feedback, reflection, and revision. Have my students to identify and define the driving question for our Project and be extremely purposeful and thoughtful in identify the "needs to know" to help guide the students' research.