

Experiential Learning

2024 Virtual Teaching Hackathon

Team Names, Titles, Roles

- Mandy Bakas, East Aurora High School Contributor
- Alyssa Chin, West Aurora High School Writer
- Rachel Gerhard, East Aurora High School Team Leader
- Micah Hook, West Aurora High School Reporter
- Dr. Alma Rodriguez Estrada, Aurora University Contributor
- Dr. Vicki Schacht, HW Cowherd Middle School Contributor

Problem Selection and Approach



Key Problem

 Tackling the struggle to make content more engaging and relevant to the students' world could be accomplished through projects or meaningful activities.

Approach

- Structure lessons to incorporate student engagement to show relevance to the students' lives.
- Compose a list of resources previously used in classrooms as examples to share.

Strategies



- Project-Based Learning (PBL):
 - Description: Students work on projects that require applying knowledge to real-world problems.
 - Example: Building a community garden to learn about biology, sustainability, and teamwork.
- Internships and Apprenticeships:
 - Description: Hands-on work experiences in a professional setting.
 - Example: An internship at a local business where students can apply marketing strategies learned in class.

Case Studies:

- Description: In-depth analyses of real-life situations and challenges.
- Example: Business students analyzing the rise and fall of a company to understand market dynamics and management strategies.
- Simulations and Role-Playing:
 - Description: Interactive scenarios that mimic real-life situations.
 - Example: Medical students using simulation software to diagnose and treat virtual patients.

Service Learning:

- Description: Combining community service with academic coursework.
- Example: Organizing a campaign to promote recycling and sustainability in the local community while studying environmental science.

Field Trips and Site Visits:

- Description: Visits to relevant locations to observe and learn.
- Example: Visiting a historical site to enhance understanding of historical events and contexts.

- Guest Speakers and Industry Experts:
 - Description: Inviting professionals to share their experiences and insights.
 - Example: A tech entrepreneur discussing the latest trends in technology and innovation.
- Workshops and Bootcamps:
 - Description: Intensive, short-term training sessions focused on specific skills.
 - Example: Coding bootcamps where participants learn programming languages and work on real projects.

- Online Courses and Webinars:
 - Description: Digital learning platforms offering courses from industry experts.
 - Example: Coursera or Udemy courses that provide practical knowledge and skills in various fields.
- Mentorship Programs:
 - Description: Pairing students with experienced mentors in their field of interest.
 - Example: A young scientist working with a professional researcher to gain insights into scientific inquiry and experimentation.

Implementation



Steps for Implementation

- Incorporate structured lessons that show relevance to students' lives.
- Compile and share resources on the AU Noyce website.
- Engage in projects and meaningful activities relevant to students' interests and curriculum.

Supporting Materials

- Project-based Learning: IMSA Resources 6-12
- BBC Teach
- Concord Consortium
- Math Medic
- Case Study: Making Science Relevant
- Social Justice Math and Science Curricular Resources
- Edheads
- Study Jams

Conclusion



Summary and Next Steps

- Collaborative efforts make content engaging and relevant.
- Use of diverse methods and resources enrich students' learning experiences.
- Encourage colleagues to adopt experiential learning practices.
- Continue to share and develop list of resources.