

Ideas for Creating Entry Events

An entry event serves several purposes

- It piques students' curiosity about a topic and builds excitement about a project.
- It alerts students to a problem that needs to be solved; it's a call to action.
- It connects a topic to students' lives, interests, cultures, or communities.
- It generates questions, to begin the process of inquiry that is central to PBL.
- It makes students want to learn more.
- It can create an emotional connection to the project, which is key to student engagement in PBL.

Suggestions:

Guest Speakers and Experts: Invite experts related to the project topic to speak to your students. This can include scientists, authors, business professionals, or community leaders. Their real-world experiences can provide context and inspire students.

Personal Stories and Testimonials: Share personal stories or testimonials from people affected by the project topic. This can make the issue more relatable and urgent.

Community Involvement: Partner with local organizations or community members who can present a need or problem that students can help address through their project.

Field Trips: Organize a field trip to a relevant location such as a museum, historical site, nature reserve, or a local business. Seeing real-world applications can ignite curiosity and provide a tangible connection to the project.

Virtual Field Trips: Can't plan an off-site learning experience? Do the next best thing and connect via videoconference. Select a virtual field trip that aligns with your project topic. Platforms like Google Arts & Culture and various museum websites offer extensive virtual tours.

Piece of Mock or Real Correspondence: This approach can provide a tangible, real-world connection to the project topic and can help set the stage for students to explore and engage deeply with the subject matter. Some examples could include a historical letter, business or scientific correspondence, community or governmental request, or a personal letter as some examples.

Artistic Expressions: Use art, music, or drama to introduce the project. A dramatic play about historical events, a music piece related to a cultural study, or creating art inspired by the topic can be very engaging.

Multimedia Presentations: Use videos, documentaries, or interactive websites; choose your video/multimedia carefully. Sometimes less is more. Showing a short clip and then allowing time for discussion or reflection can be engaging and motivating.

Physical or Digital Artifacts: Using physical artifacts can effectively engage students and spark curiosity about the topic. These may be in-hand or digital such as old photographs, letters, coins, and tools from a particular era or event as a few examples.

References:

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