Yazmin Torres

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| **Web Quest** | **Ill Structured Problem? Complex? Messy? No single correct answer?** | **Problem mirrors real life? Provides context, challenge, and motivation?** | **Students as decision makers with roles and responsibilities?** | **Teacher as a cognitive guide/coach?** | **PBL?** |
| **Rain Forest** | This activity seemed intriguing. The only downside about this is that each member of the group is in charge of their own section of research. I think that it should be a group effort to find information in all 4 sections. Not only that but the activity is not based on problem solving but more about researching. | This activity wants the student to think about life in a different surrounding rather than their own neighborhood and why those differences take place. It is based more on exploration that problem solving. | I feel that this activity does assign roles and responsibilities to each member in the group. I don’t think that the students are making any decisions. This is all online based and the websites are already provided. Students aren’t really ìexploringî for information if everything is already provided. Students are not being challenged. | The teacher provides a rubric and the students are on their own with this activity. | I wouldn’t think that this follows PBL.  This doesn’t challenge the student to solve any type of problem, this activity is based on researching answers. Not what PBL stands for. |
| **Radically Reduced Radiolarians** | This activity is not messy. Students need to study the phenomenon of the decline in the radiolarians population. Students need to find out what their impact is on the food chain, if they’re important historically, ecologically, and even artistically. I think that finding out their impact on the food chain and on the ecology are important but not so much the history or artistry. | This research wants a student to figure out if these radiolarian decline is worth spending two billion dollars for to study. Spending money on a certain study is very applicable to daily life. All students in the group are involved with their own assigned section but also looking through their partners sections so the students know what to expect out of each other. There is motivation, that is to decide if the budget is useful. | Students do carry on a great responsibility on being decision makers on budget and they all have roles and responsibilities within this activity. | Teacher provides guidelines but this is more student based. | I think that this activity could pull off as a PBL because this task involves students being very involved with not only their own assigned section but that of their partners. They all come together to see if they can convince congress to support their research and that involves looking at a ìproblem.î |
| **Solve It With Logic** | This activity seems well put together but I don’t think that it has only one correct answer. Students are gathering evidence and depending on the group and how they interpret their findings, they may come up with a different murderer. | This is definitely a real life situation. Trying to solve murders goes along with solving crimes and really having to think and put scenarios together to solve problems. This is an intriguing activity and I’m sure students will be interested in finding the murderer. | Students play roles and have responsibilities as crime investigators. Students will gather information to be presented as a case in order to assist the prosecutor with their case. | The teacher is evaluating the students based on their success in prosecuting the murderer and by how well their cases were developed. Teacher seems to be involved because in the evaluation portion, the files are returned so that the case can be further developed. | This is definitely PBL based. This activity allows students to really come up with their own research and ways of solving a problem. A problem is given and students need to come up with evidence. |
| **Don’t Drink the Water** | This activity is based around trying to find a treatment for a bug that has infiltrated a towns drinking water. Students must show research data, will have to come up with a hypothesis and design a controlled experiment. Students need to solve this water problem. | This is definitely a real life situation. Water can become contaminated and when it does we have people that need to figure out what needs to be done to fix the problem. Students should stay motivated in this activity because their in charge of figuring out what is causing this water problem. | Students are given responsibilities in finding out different ways of getting rid of this dreadful ìbugî that has infested the water. They must identify this ìbug, come up with a way to fix the problem, and try to find a solution. Students need to think outside the box to come up with a hypothesis of what may be causing this unclean water. | Teacher is specific in their grading rubric. The teacher is grading the student by correctly identifying the correct pathogen, how your experimental investigation was completed, and if the students case was convincing. | I think that this activity follows PBL because it includes a problem and the students need to figure out what is going on. They are in charge of figuring out what the problem is and coming up with a convincing case as to what is wrong and how they will fix the solution. |