

Ideas for...

LANGUAGE ARTS

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What to do in Language Arts???

Collected ideas for
use in the high
school Language
Arts classroom.

PROJECT BASED LEARNING IN YOUR CLASSROOM

Planning for a project must take into account what is possible in your classroom. The scope of a project will be affected by the bell schedule, the time of year, standardized testing, and the other myriad factors that impact your work. Perhaps the first question that usually arises is: do I have time to do this project? To answer that question, it is helpful *not* to think of PBL as taking time away from the regular curriculum. Instead, consider a standards-focused project as a central method of teaching and learning that replaces conventional instruction for a portion of your course. Standards-focused projects teach students the same essential information you might teach them through lecture and discussion. PBL teachers also find that they do considerably less “busy work” activities in the classroom. And, though projects take time to plan, teachers have more time with students once a project is underway.

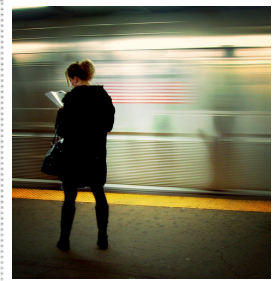
~excerpt from Project Based Learning Handbook, A Guide to Standards Focused Project Based Learning for Middle and High School Teachers, Buck Institute for Education



<http://flickr.com/photos/payalvora/145091272/>



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*Focus on the
process
over the
product.*

Start With the End in Mind

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS ~ STANDARDS ~ OBJECTIVES ~ TOOLS

ROMEO AND JULIET

Modern Day Performance

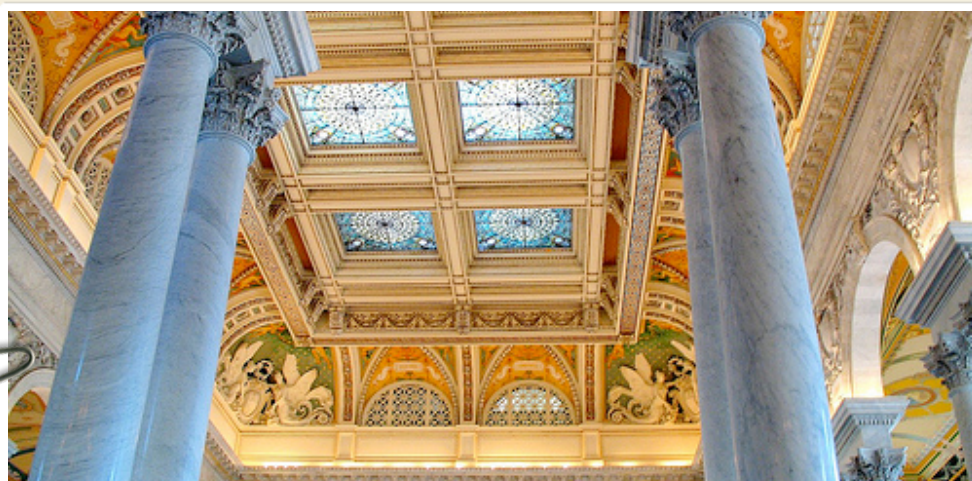
How is Romeo and Juliet relevant to life today? A class can create a 5-7 minute film version of Romeo and Juliet with a contemporary setting, contemporary language and a modern plot. Divide the class into small groups and assign an act. The students condense the action, choose the important elements from the assigned act, and decide how to portray them. The students will assign roles, perform the script and edit their footage with movie editing software. Final products can be accessed and reviewed by each group with thoughtful comments.

BLOGGING WITH STUDENTS

Blogs are weblogs that students can use to record thoughts and reflections about literature, current events, and/or daily life. A blog is a personal place to record public thoughts and opinions and then invite others to share their reactions with the author through comments. One blogging site, <http://edublogs.org> has created the opportunity for teachers to create a blog for each student in their class. Details on this process can be found at <http://edublogs.org/campus>. One way they suggest using Edublogs Campus is to provide every student their own eportfolio, publishing and reflective learning tool. In fact, there are so many ways that blogging can be done in the Language Arts classroom, they can't all be listed here.

SOCIAL NETWORKS WITH LIT

Literature teachers can create social network type websites where the students participate as if they were characters from the readings. This type of interaction will demonstrate knowledge of the concepts through an immersive experience. An example site can be seen at <http://www.byrdmiddle.org/richard3>. A site that allows teachers to create social networks of their own is <http://ning.com>.



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