LEARNING IN A PROJECT-BASED WORLD

A QUICK START GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

IT'S A PROJECT-BASED WORLD. HERE'S A GUIDE TO GETTING STARTED WITH PROJECTS TODAY!



IDENTIFY YOUR PASSIONS.

A project is more engaging—and leads to more powerful learning— if you find it personally meaningful. Focus your project on a real-world issue or problem that you care about, you will do more powerful work.



KNOW YOURSELF.

A project will be authentic when it speaks to your interests and your culture. Learning more about your family, where you came from and your own beliefs can help you define what you want to learn and do.



BE ON PURPOSE.

Be intentional about what you want to do and accomplish. Write it down. Tell people who can hold you accountable.



CREATE A TIMELINE.

Wunderlist will help you set and then track your project goals and OneNote is a one-stop project management tool. Use this project planner (or find one that works well and then build in time to learn it).



UTILIZE TECHNOLOGY.

Apps such as Redbooth, Basecamp and Insightly help you track your goals and timelines. Use what you know how to use and look for tools that might also be used in the business world. This allows you to learn even more new skills and is helpful for the future (thinking ahead to your resume or online profile).



INVOLVE ADULTS.

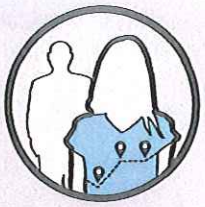
Chances are, there are adults who have an expertise in something you care about. Connect with them. Need help? Ask your teachers, family members or other trusted adults.



CREATE GOALS.

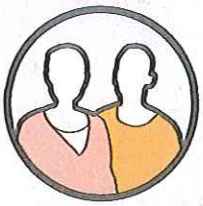
Set aspirations for your project that are realistic and challenging. Revisit them often to check progress.

"I think the best way for me to learn is hands-on, learning experience and through trial and error. Projects encourage that." Christina Postnikoff, graduate of Highline Big Picture High School, an interest-based and project-based learning school near Seattle



CHECK PROGRESS ALONG THE WAY.

The most common reason students provide for "giving up" is that they lost track or got overwhelmed. Having check-ins with someone else who will hold you accountable will prevent your project from dying a slow death.



COLLABORATE WITH PEERS.

Find people who share your interest and passions and share your work with them. Consider your project an opportunity for collaborating with friends, connecting with others on social media or building your network.



PRESENT IT, POST IT, MAKE IT PUBLIC.

Create a video, write a blog, build an online portfolio or present your work at a public forum. You could even create art in the form of visual media, music, performance or more. Make your work public for others to read, share, learn and listen.



GET SOCIAL.

Share what you are doing on social media. Many students start dedicated hashtags (#StuVoice is a great example that was started by college students) and connect to other organizations that have similar goals. Link to artifacts, videos, memes and other products you have created. Connect these to your online portfolio or resume (if you have one).



RESEARCH.

Think through ways to conduct research into the big questions while thinking about what you really want to know. You could conduct surveys on Twitter, Poll Everywhere or Survey Monkey. We also are big fans of taking a question we have and then blogging about it.



REFLECT.

When you take the time to reflect at the conclusion of a project, you learn more about yourself, your own strengths and struggles.

STUDENT PROJECTS RESOURCE LIST

Apps and tech solutions that students can use to support project work include:

- ***Google Forms** is a great tool for you to use to gather information from others. You can survey other peers or classmates and gather data.*
- ***Google Docs** is the ultimate sharing and collaboration tool.*
- ***Microsoft Office Online** offers many templates, which can be used as is or customized.*
- ***Newsela** has hundreds of news articles and nonfiction articles at various levels. You can annotate and highlight articles related to your project work.*
- ***Biz Movie** is a fun and engaging way to show what you know. You can do this by creating animated movies. You can learn the basics of entrepreneurship and business while creating and running movie companies.*
- ***Canva** is a free online tool for creating images for sharing on social media.*
- *Here are some great **project planning forms** and an **online project planner**.*

*For more ideas on tech tools that can be combined with project-based learning, see **14 Tech Tools to Enhance Project-Based Learning**.*

Join in the conversation at
#PROJECTBASED

GETTING SMART
Think. Learn. Innovate.

For more, see Preparing Students for a Project-Based World