

Collegial Circle Final Report

Please complete all information on this form. After it is complete, send it to the Teacher Center along with other supporting documentation. Electronic copies are preferred whenever possible.

COLLEGIAL CIRCLE INFORMATION

Title of Circle: PRE Project-Based Learning Investigation – ELA Standards Area: ELA, Technology, Information Literacy/Library
Facilitator: Tami Holihan School(s): Park Road
Beginning Date: 9/26/17 Ending Date: 5/31/18 # of Hours: 8

Please submit copies of the following to this report:

- ✓ Collegial Circle Attendance Log
- ✓ Collegial Circle Meeting Log
- ✓ Samples of strategies implemented, materials created, or student work samples where applicable
- ✓ Collegial Circle Reflection Sheets - completed by each participant

COLLEGIAL CIRCLE DESCRIPTION

What was the anticipated goal(s) of this Collegial Circle?

The anticipated goal of our Collegial Circle was to increase our familiarity with Project-Based Learning (PBL) and build on our PBL experience from last school year. We worked to transfer our PBL knowledge to another discipline (last year we focused on social studies), thus further cementing our understanding and comfort with this type of teaching/learning. This time around, we worked to devise strategies to incorporate PBL into student knowledge/skill areas related to ELA (specifically literary elements and devices).

What grade level(s) and or subject area(s) will benefit from this Circle?

In our building, students in Grades 1 - 5 directly benefited from this Circle. Students in Grade 5 were the primary targets of the learning that took place through this circle, as they were the participants in the PBL project. However, they performed for their authentic audiences, students in Grades 1 through 5. The feedback we received as a result of this Circle and the PBL project that ensued was that all students came away with a greater understanding for and appreciation of the various literary elements that were focused on. Subject areas that benefited from this Circle include: ELA, technology, library/information literacy, STEAM, SEL, and real-world 21st century skills.

In the future, all grade levels will benefit from the learning that took place through this Circle, as we have all gained a deeper understanding of how to implement PBL. The learning and experience gained through this Collegial Circle will allow 5th grade teachers to more confidently and effectively incorporate PBL projects in their classrooms. Additionally, the librarian will be able to effectively incorporate similarly-structured projects for Grades K through 5 in the library.

FINAL REFLECTIONS

Was the goal of your Collegial Circle met? Please explain.

Yes, our goal was to transfer our previous knowledge guiding students through a PBL project in the area of social studies to a project focused on literary elements. There were certainly differences in this project that our Collegial Circle helped us to navigate through, such as scheduling, the amount and type of research done by students, and the type of activity that worked best for students' presentation of knowledge.

How did the members of this Collegial Circle assess whether the outcome was met? What evidence was utilized to assess your progress?

The members of our Collegial Circle assessed that we were able to meet our outcome by analyzing the following:

Teacher + audience feedback

Peer reviews

Self-reflections

Our own anecdotal observations

The products themselves (skits, displays, movies, etc.)

How did your work impact teaching and learning? [include student work samples, lesson plans, peer reviews, etc.]

This work contributed to the solidifying of students' knowledge of literary elements as evidenced by students' scripts and visual displays. We kicked off this project with an entry event that involved teachers (of younger students) asking for help from 5th graders to teach their students various literary elements. This entry event resulted in student-driven, authentic work--students were aware of their authentic audience and thus were highly motivated. Additionally, the PBL event as a whole provided students with a memorable learning experience--something that may impact them for many years to come.

Did your work align with the Level of Evaluation you identified in your proposal? Please explain.

Yes, we believe our work is aligned with Level 4 – Participants' Use of New Knowledge & Skills. We accomplished our goal of becoming more familiar with PBL and how to further implement it into various disciplines of our teaching.

Please include any additional comments you would like to share with the Collegial Circle Committee. This may include unanticipated outcomes, next steps, new learning, etc.

We were impressed by how students handled glitches in technology and were flexible in their abilities to work through it. Additionally, 5th graders were able to adapt their presentations to reflect the various learning styles and grade levels of their audiences.