

Project-Based Learning

Daniel Hawley draws from his school's website to explain project-based learning: www.srhs.net/academics/pbl/

Issues of importance to students and communities serve as the best starting points for instruction. Active, concrete experience, driven by the "need to know," offers the most powerful form of learning. Adolescents (and other students) learn best when encountering intriguing topics and people in real-world situations, facing genuine challenges and choices and taking responsibility for their own learning. Thus, complex problems and issues that involve learning 21st century skills all wrapped into project-based learning experiences are at the heart of Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School's course of study.

The real-world projects require students to work together to complete projects -- just as they will someday in the workplace or in college (and in private and public life).

Hawley provides two additional **Project-Based Learning (PBL) assignments** that integrate the use of news:

Student assignment (abbreviated): You will be living with a family in Costa Rica. For your host family, create an online photo album (Mixbook) that reveals something about you. Feature likes and dislikes. Include sections on yourself, family and friends. Write about someone in the news who interests you and has Latino or Spanish roots.

Student assignment or essential question: What do you do to maintain your health? Through an oral presentation that uses technology (Prezi), show the class what you do. Include current news and information, including advice about eating, drinking, exercising, making right choices and forming sound health habits.