

Project-Based Learning: Helping Students Develop 5 Key Skills Using SRA FLEX Literacy

Project-based learning (PBL) is a collaborative approach that allows students to apply their knowledge and form cross-curricular connections through literacy. Project-based learning is considered by most educators as essential for increasing student success and long-term growth. By collaborating, reflecting, engaging, and making decisions, students exercise virtual scenarios that parallel real-world situations they'll encounter in the future. Not only that, PBL develops deep learning proficiencies necessary for higher education, career development, and life progress.

[SRA FLEX Literacy](#) emphasizes this approach in [The Project Experience](#), a comprehensive ELA program designed to foster collaboration, help students master critical thinking and communication skills, and achieve various learning goals through writing-based group projects. Designed for students in grades 3 and above, FLEX Literacy contains interactive resources that reach students at a variety of levels.

This collaborative approach to learning allows students to put what they learned to the test by applying their knowledge and forming cross-curricular connections through literacy. Project-based learning increases content retention, strengthens problem-solving skills, and improves students' attitudes toward learning because it helps them develop relevant skills.

During The Project Experience, students learn skills related to critical thinking, communication, and collaboration that will prove to be relevant far beyond their years of schooling. FLEX Literacy's Project Experience is based on heavily-researched techniques proven to help students develop skills in five critical areas: context, motivation, writing, inquiry, and collaboration.

1. Context

FLEX Literacy allows students to deepen their understanding of various topics, make cross-curricular connections, and fully comprehend the context of the material. The Project Experience provides students with opportunities to show what they know and relate it to a variety of subjects such as science, mathematics, social studies, and language arts.

Providing students with context is one of The Project Experience's most crucial purposes; it bridges the divide between different subjects and helps students understand the relevance of the information.

2. Motivation

Techniques that help one student learn effectively may not work for another; students need options that allow them to feel motivated and capable. FLEX Literacy projects motivate students to succeed by offering them choices to personalize their learning experiences. The projects feature a variety of topics, multi-sensory instruction, and the opportunity for students to contribute their unique skills to a group.

3. Writing

FLEX Literacy's Project Experience helps students develop superior writing skills by providing multiple opportunities for individual and team writing. First, students express their thoughts informally with Write to Reflect prompts; next, they utilize Writing Frames to expand on their ideas.

After writing individually, the students form teams and collaborate to develop written and oral presentations of their research and writing. The opportunity for students to write both individually and collaboratively allows them to cultivate a better understanding of the skill.

4. Inquiry

The Project Experience strengthens students' research and inquiry abilities by encouraging them to ask questions and gather data. The projects in FLEX Literacy prompt students to evaluate multiple solutions, build evidence, and defend their choices with thorough research.

5. Collaboration

The ability to collaborate with others is crucial in most aspects of life, so it is important to develop this skill early. FLEX Literacy teaches students how to effectively collaborate and cooperate with others through multi-faceted projects and both individual and team assessments.

With SRA FLEX Literacy's project-based learning approach, students in Grades 3-12 establish lifelong skills that will stand the test of time. Whether it be the ability to understand context, write effectively and clearly, or collaborate with others, the skills cultivated with FLEX Literacy's Project Experience will remain with students long after they leave the classroom.

Learn more on the [FLEX Literacy website](#) or schedule a [consultative literacy](#) meeting with your representative.