

Project Based Student Learning for Social Studies & Language Arts

Jennifer Tjaden & Ron Hustvedt

Why Use Projects ?

"The U.S. is the only economically advanced nation to rely heavily on multiple-choice tests. Other nations use performance-based assessment where students are evaluated on the basis of real work such as essays, projects and activities. Ironically, because these nations do not focus on teaching to multiple-choice tests, they even score higher than U.S. students on those kinds of tests."

Education.com. "How Standardized Testing Damages Education". Reprinted from the National Center for Fair and Open Testing.

What do you teach?

- Do you teach what you feel like?
- Are you dictated by the school?
- Do you use a textbook & get as far as you can?
- Do you at the MCAs and practice test all year on what is on them?
- Do you check the standards and make sure you are following them?
- Are you Mrs. Munger?

★ How do you teach?

Do you...

- Lecture & Take Notes? But you use the projector!
- Read the book and do lots of worksheets?
- Use hands on projects where kids are creative?
- Are you a combinations of lots of styles?
- Where does your technology fit in?

★ The Internet Connects Us

My classroom 10 years ago.....

- 6th Grade Self Contained
- Minnesota Profiles of Learning
- Lots of hands on
- Lots of cool new technology I had to use!
(I had an awesome mentor!)
- 1st Mac Laptop- Inspired by the "Superstar!"
- But.....What was my direction?

NECC or Bust!

★ The Progression to Middle School

My classroom 5 years ago.....

- Middle School Setting
- Students had more "tech time"- me not as much
- Moved to a new focus- history
- Very aware of MN standards, and tried to cover as much as I could
- Combined my love for technology with history
- National History Day- LOVE IT!

★ Today: What is up with testing?!?!

My classroom today.....

5th Grade Reading Teacher

- MN Standards
- The Acronyms: MCAs, AYP, RTI, AIMS
- The PRESSURE to cram it all in!
- Less \$
- YET....the kids are more 'techie' and have their hands on LOTS of interactive devices: computers, iPods, iPads, phones, etc.

★ The Big Questions

1. How do we merge the "testing for proficiency" philosophy and utilize our current technology for these digital natives?

2. How do we fit it all in?

"We need to prepare students for THEIR future, not our past." ~Ian Jukes

★ The Compromise

- Continue to teach as I have been, adding more of the technology that I LOVE!
- Learn & make friends with the standards :)
- Evaluate what I've already done to see what standards are being achieved in projects
- Assessments & Documentation

★ The Standards

The New ELA LOVE our technology component and make it mandatory to teach it!

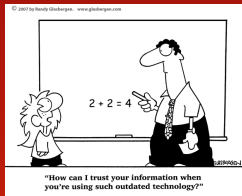
*Check out their new [website!](#)

Look at NEW [ELA & Social Studies Standards](#)
Elementary vs. High School

[In my classroom...](#)

★ Creating Projects

- What technology is available?
- Daily Objectives
- Time management
- Set deadlines
- Clear Expectations
- Checklists!



Examples:

[MN History Day](#)

★ Tools: Use what you have!

- Teacher [Blogging](#) & Student Blogging
- Google Docs...including presentations!
 - Going Paperless- worksheets & compositions
- Emailing, Texting
- iMovies, Podcasts, Prezi
- Skyping, Cell phones, iPods, & iPads
- Teacher Websites- VERY EASY!

Examples: [Mrs. Baxter's](#), [Mrs. Tjaden's](#)

★ Cool Links & Projects

Mrs. Tjaden's Stuff

Mr. Hustvedt's Stuff

★ Thanks!

So.....

How will you teach in the 21st
Century?
