
THE EDUCATOR'S EXTRA

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COVID-19: The Nonprofit Industry Impact

Despite the lack of news coverage, the COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on the nonprofit industry - much like every other industry within the US. *The Voices of Charities Facing COVID-19 Worldwide* report by Charities Aid Foundation of America, reported that 96.5% of the nearly 550 nonprofits surveyed are experiencing negative impacts related to the virus. If we can be realistic and round that number to nearest tenth, it's 100%. Additional statistics include: 67.9% of the nonprofits surveyed reported a decrease in contributions; 63% reported travel restrictions disrupting contact with clients, donors, and recipients; 56.4% reported issues with client relations; and 48.6% reported disruptions to staffing and 37.6% to operations.

The nonprofit industry is 10% of the American workforce. Right behind manufacturing and retail. That's 11.4 million jobs...or was at least was 11.4 million jobs. The current number is unknown but speculated to be far less as American unemployment claims surge past 30 million. Conversations about the nonprofit industry have turned from sustainability to survivability. The balance of finance and impact, which was typically a navigable trail, has become a tightrope walk for many nonprofit organizations. In addition, nonprofits are looking at their missions and asking the million-dollar question of is it "essential"? Do they remain open with staff working remotely? Can they still perform program functions and serve their clients with imposed social distancing measures? Can they reopen successfully in a post-pandemic world?

All questions that lead to the answer of "it depends." No one nonprofit is alike and each nonprofit approaches or reacts to a crisis differently. Crises, big or small, are unpredictable, yet developing and practicing a crisis communication and action plan can assist in reducing the amount of damage control to be done and keeps stakeholders, clients, board members, staff, and volunteers in the loop. Since schools and the education industry have done a complete 180, Educators of America has been forced to adapt and innovate. With assistance from the CARES Act and our ability to work remotely, we have been able to complete this year's Professional Development sessions for our Learning Technology Grant participating teachers and progress most of our programs; especially our Building Cultural Bridges program, which is now looking to expand further in Namibia and into Zambia.

We have adopted the appropriate measures to ensure a safe working environment and keep lines of communication open while pushing ahead in a feasible manner with our five programs.

Unfortunately, the Education Technology MicroGrant program has been temporarily suspended. This was an incredibly difficult decision for us to make and it was not taken lightly. However, due to the physical closure of schools and the uncertainty on students, faculty, and administration's return in the fall in combination with financial constraints brought upon by the pandemic, we have committed to this decision. For all those that have submitted a MicroGrant

application since April, we will keep your applications on file and review them for when the decision has been made to resume the MicroGrant program.

Three words echo with conviction for the nonprofit industry. Resiliency. Patience. Perseverance. Optimism is certainly shaken; however, it remains in the eyes of every Board Member, Executive Director, Staff Member, and Volunteer. The industry will eventually find its footing and prevail, albeit with some battle scars and a hardened attitude. We strive to stay committed to serving our clients and communities notwithstanding the tumultuous nature of the economy and high unemployment.

There's a saying in the nonprofit industry about public donations, "Anything more than 0% is good in our eyes." Believe it or not, the five or ten dollars that are contributed to nonprofits monthly are a life blood. If there is the time in the U.S. to reflect and look upon itself and the stark reality of how we support one another, the curtain has been drawn.

If you want to contribute to Educators of America and the programs we operate for students and teachers, please [click here](#). Thank you in advance.



A Useful List of Virtual Tools For The Essential Elements of PBL



Things are different now. The shift to online or e-learning has been dramatic and sometimes overwhelming for teachers, students, and parents. However, the necessity for the familiarity of online learning has become ever so apparent. Despite not being together in a single classroom, Project-Based Learning can still exist and even thrive while improving the technology literacy of students.

But where to begin and with what tools? How, as teachers, are you supposed to conduct a PBL project let alone plan one?

Fortunately, we've taken it upon ourselves to dive into the online educational tools universe and pluck out available tools that correspond to each Essential Element of Project-Based Learning.

1. Challenging Problem or Question

MyPBLWorks – A website dedicated to offering a wide-range of PBL resources. Create an account (for free) and begin the exploration of all things PBL. Great section of example challenging problems and questions.

Parlay Ideas – Parlay Ideas is a great source for entry events and prompts for students. A prompt or question is given and students can answer using the Parlay platform where peers can offer feedback and then ultimately lead to a live discussion. It offers a free trial for Certified Teachers for a full year.

2. Sustained Inquiry

Newsela – Newsela provides schools with up-to-date, accessible content that supports every learner in the classroom and at home. The website provides an expansive library of engaging, standards-aligned content to drive continued instruction stemming from the driving question or challenging problem.

Padlet – Padlet is a productivity software that can be used for school or business. Obviously in this case, you'd be using it for school purposes. With Padlet, students are able to create boards, documents, and webpages that they can contribute to. So when students have information to share among their group, Padlet is a great tool to use. It's also free, which is really great.

Epic! – Instance access to thousands of books. Epic! is for students who are 12 years old and younger. In addition to books, there are learning videos and quizzes. It's free for teachers and librarians too!

3. Authenticity

Nepri – Nepri is connecting industries to education. Their mission is “Making industry engagement part of the everyday classroom by empowering teachers to engage students in STEAM!” The connect students to industry professionals where students can ask questions, receive information, and have the authentic experience that PBL necessitates. Free trial is available for 30 days.

SketchUp – 3D modeling software meets drawing by hand. SketchUp is for those who want to present real visual ideas for their projects. Incredibly cool software and they offer a K-12 Education Grant for schools that qualify.

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Professional
Development.

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<https://educatorsusa.org/our-programs/professional-development/>



4. Student Voice & Choice

Seesaw – Seesaw is a student-driven digital portfolio. Essentially it is a platform for student engagement. Students can show their work in a variety of formats including PDFs, drawings, videos, and much more. This allows students to engage in their voice and choice for their PBL project – subject to teacher approval, of course. It's free to sign up!

Canva – Canva is a great tool for presentations and graphics. Students can use Canva in a variety of ways to showcase what they want to present and how they would like to present it. Presentation? Sure. Infographic? Absolutely. They can even come up with their own Zoom backgrounds for their presentations. There are Pro and Enterprise solutions but for students, the free version is excellent.

5. Reflection

Flipgrid – An excellent way for students to record their feedback on their own projects and their peers. Through short video recordings, Flipgrid offers a platform that makes the reflection aspect of

Kidsblog – Students can use Kidsblog to reflect on their PBL projects with a real audience. Through its safe student publishing standards such as teacher approval, students can publish and reflect on their work in a public manner showing what they have come up with. Free trial for 30 days.

6. Critique & Revision

PenPal Schools – PenPal School is a platform that connects students across 150 countries across the world. By connecting students to their peers around the world and discussing particular subjects, students get authentic constructive criticism and feedback. All topics are covered: from Earth Day to Fake News contests to World Religions.

Kaienza – Touted as the #1 feedback tool for Google Docs, Kaienza is fast and easy-to-use with neat features such as voice commenting, explainer videos, and automatic rubrics. Installation is free and we must say, the video commenting is a very cool feature.

7. Public Product

SoundTrap – From songs to podcasts, SoundTrap is excellent platform for students that are looking to make a public product in the realm of debates, PSA's, or informative storytelling. Currently, they are offering an extended trial for students and teachers.

BookCreator – Book Creator is a simple tool for students and teachers alike creating digital books. As students finalize a public product, what better way than their personally created book, short story, or in-depth report. Even more so, students can let their creativity flow into poetry books, journals, and comic adventures. Pricing features are listed on the site but for groups creating their own products, it definitely looks worth it.

Thank you to all that donated.



We appreciate your contributions to our #TeacherAppreciationWeek fundraiser!



Things That Are Happening

The Digital Divide in School Shutdowns: This was inevitable. The digital schism that exists in school districts across the country are being exposed. Connection to the internet is typically taken for granted. We rarely think about it, however, the spaces that offer free wifi - public libraries, community centers, coffee shops - are currently closed and now large telecommunication and technology companies are answering the call. Device access is also a significant issue that raises the question of how are we engaging students in STEM without devices?

Teachers Aren't Just Teachers...An Article to Share: The pandemic has brought a large new respect to teachers as parents juggle working from home and ensuring their kids log onto their virtual sessions, complete and submit homework, and stay occupied. This article highlights seven facets that are overlooked from those outside of the education industry...or are not married to a teacher.

End-of-School Days: Getting Creative: The last few days of school are typically filled with yearbook signings, celebratory parties, assemblies, and field days. As the classroom has shifted to a digital realm, these enthralling events for students have all but disappeared, yet the belief that the spirit behind them been lost is a self-limiting belief. Who doesn't love an at-home dance party and making brownies-in-a-mug?

Bring the Headlines into PBL: In the world we currently reside in, it appears that news travels faster than the speed of light. So why try to avoid it? Current events are talking points for students and teachers alike. Even more so, they're entry events. Present or future, what happens today will affect students. It makes sense to encourage them to think creatively and critically about how a specific event is related to what being taught in the classroom. Plus, who doesn't want to start using a hashtag when writing an essay? #whynot



"Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our children."
- Cesar Chavez