

What is AUTHENTIC LEARNING?

Problems that are ill-defined

Authentic activities are relatively undefined and open to multiple interpretations, requiring students to identify for themselves the tasks and subtasks needed to complete the major task.

Multiple sources and perspectives

Authentic activities provide the opportunity for students to examine tasks from a variety of theoretical and practical perspectives, using a variety of resources, and requires students to distinguish relevant from irrelevant information.

Sustained investigation

Authentic activities comprise complex tasks to be investigated by students over a sustained period of time, requiring significant investment of time and intellectual resources.

Multiple interpretations and outcomes

Rather than yielding a single correct answer obtained by the application of rules and procedures, authentic activities allow for diverse interpretations and competing solutions.

Reflection (metacognition)

Authentic activities enable learners to make choices and reflect on their learning, both individually and as a team or community.

EXAMPLES OF AUTHENTIC LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Interviews
- Multi-media reports/projects
- Peer editing/review
- Data analysis
- Infographics
- Debates
- Ask the "expert"
- Simulations
- Case studies
- Podcasts/blogs
- Article critiques
- Concept mapping
- Presentations
- Scenarios
- Inquiry based learning
- Journaling/reflection
- Wikis
- Group problem solving
- Lab/field work
- Problem based learning (PBL)

Interdisciplinary perspective

Authentic activities have consequences that extend beyond a particular discipline, encouraging students to adopt diverse roles and think in interdisciplinary terms.

Integrated assessment

Assessment is not merely summative in authentic activities but is woven seamlessly into the major task in a manner that reflects real-world evaluation processes.

Polished products

Conclusions are not merely exercises or substeps in preparation for something else. Authentic activities culminate in the creation of a whole product, valuable in its own right.

Real-world relevance

Authentic activities match the real-world tasks of professionals in practice.

Collaboration

Success is not achievable by an individual learner working alone. Authentic activities make collaboration integral to the task, both within the course and in the real world.



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