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LearnCanada: “The Plan” for Instructional Design

Instructional Design Objectives

The following three objectives for the Instructional Design (ID) component of LearnCanada involve the acquisition of specific professional skills and the evaluation of supporting technologies.

- Objective 1.** Through participating in the LearnCanada project, the teachers will acquire skills and methodology for using project based learning (PBL) as a teaching strategy in their practice.
- Objective 2.** Within the LearnCanada project the teachers will adopt a collaborative approach to professional development.
- Objective 3.** The LearnCanada teachers will evaluate the broadband network and software tools as a medium for collaborative professional development.

Meeting and Evaluating our Objectives

The objectives will be met in collaboration with the six participating school board members of the Instructional Design (ID) team. Each objective, the tasks associated with accomplishing the objective, and evaluation criterion are outlined in this section.

- Objective 1.** *Through participating in the LearnCanada project, the teachers will acquire skills and methodology for using project based learning as a teaching strategy in their practice.*

Meeting the Objective:

- A. At a Face-to-face retreat, the ID team will discuss PBL and exchange information and ideas with teacher “experts.”
 - a. October 12-13th, 2000 “Planning sessions for PBL” and “4Mat and PBL” with Geoff Irvine
 - b. Teachers are provided with research articles and samples of storyboards, projects and ideas relating to PBL.
- B. The ID team will participate in online videoconferencing events with “experts” in the area of Project Based Learning.
 - a. November 21, 2000 “The Nuts and Bolts of PBL” with Sidney Shugarman
- C. Teachers using PBL will use the broadband medium to share their knowledge and interact with other LearnCanada teachers. This may be done through online speaking presentation or by showing video clips that demonstrate an aspect of PBL.
- D. The LearnCanada team will develop example PBL projects that teachers will use to gain practical experience in using the methodologies discussed within the project.

Evaluation

Indicators of Success:

- A. The LearnCanada teachers indicate (via formal and informal evaluation) that they are:
 - I. Acquiring new knowledge about PBL.
 - II. Able to demonstrate some PBL methods in their teaching practice.
 - III. Able to plan, implement and evaluate a PBL project within their teaching practice.
- B. Instructional Design members are able to demonstrate their PBL skills through.
 - IV. Sharing their knowledge and experiences with other ID team member during online events.
 - V. Sharing video clips of their PBL activities and/or outcomes.

Objective 2: *Within the LearnCanada project the teachers will adopt a collaborative approach to professional development.*

Meeting the Objective:

- A. The teachers will participate in regularly scheduled large group online PD events.
- B. Collaborate on identifying common traits of PBL learning and how to apply those traits within diverse courses of study.
- C. Teachers will have the opportunity to share and discuss information, practice and resources with other members through online events.
- D. Teachers will have the opportunity to participate in small group online PD sessions.
- E. Secondary tools such as email will also be used to facilitate collaboration.

Evaluation

Indicators of Success:

- A. The LearnCanada teachers are:
 - I. Participating in large group online events. (providing feedback on evaluation forms and in attendance)
 - II. Collaborating on identifying PBL project ideas.
 - III. Discussing and sharing information, practice and resources with other team members through online event and/or secondary tools.
 - IV. Participating in small group online events.

Objective 3 *The LearnCanada teachers will evaluate the broadband network and software tools as a medium for collaborative professional development.*

Meeting the Objective:

- A. The LearnCanada teachers will act as a focus group for the technical evaluation of the broadband medium and supporting tools.
- B. Teachers will provide technical feedback through:
 - a. Joint large group online sessions
 - b. Formal and informal evaluation tools

Evaluation

Indicators of Success:

- A. The LearnCanada teachers are providing the necessary technical feedback as indicated by the Infrastructure, Multimedia and Evaluation team leads.
- B. The ID team members are “driving the process” of creating, modifying and evaluating the supporting technological tools.

Instructional Design: Milestones

The following is a list of milestones taken from the LearnCanada contract.

Phase I - Requirements Definition

- 1. Teacher team selections, orientation and team building sessions
- 2. Professional development training session(s) on Project Based Learning (PBL)
- 3. Collection and assessment of supporting professional development resources
- 4. Identification of PBL projects

Phase II - Development

- 1. Support software development team in defining software requirements
- 2. Assessment of existing professional development multimedia content
- 3. Development of PBL resources
- 4. Support external evaluator in data collection for program evaluation

Phase III – Deployment and Evaluation

- 1. Provide feedback to Infrastructure and Software/Multimedia teams on field trials
- 2. Implementation of PBL projects
- 3. Presentation at PD days
- 4. Participate and contribute to national and international broadband K-12 professional development conferences
- 5. Write final report and present at national and/or international conference