



At the Intersection of State Standards & Project-Based Learning

Camino Nuevo High School



Share with your partner...

○ which A's you may be missing in your project.



Six A's Adapted to CNHS

- Active Exploration & Adult Connections **revised** for the context of our school.



Six A's Adapted to CNHS

1. **Academic Rigor:** Projects must be high-rigor
2. **Authenticity:** Uses real-world context
3. **Applied Learning:** Uses 21st century skills (i.e. teamwork, problem-solving, and communication)
4. **Active Exploration:** Connects to outside the classroom.
5. **Adult Connections:** Students connect with adults outside of school
6. **Assessment Practices:** High-stakes exhibitions



Standards-Based Instruction: Why we need it

- ❖ Grading was not necessarily authentic to subject matter, nor was it equitable across classes.
- ❖ Disproportionately 21st century skills-based strengths vs. content-based strengths.
- ❖ While students developed strong leadership skills, 1) they were not academically competitive for/in college, nor 2) had they cultivated self-advocacy skills as scholars (not “fluent” enough to succeed in college).



With a partner, discuss...

○ whether you believe your projects authentically measure your students' proficiency in CA content standards?



UNASSISTED Discovery Learning

VS.

ENHANCED Discovery Learning.

- 2011 Meta-Analysis studies on Direct Instruction and Discovery Learning came up with 2 conclusions:
 1. “Unassisted discovery learning is perilous to student learning.”
 2. “Enhanced discovery learning can be a useful instructional tool.”

From “Art of Science & Teaching”
by Robert J. Marzano



Unassisted Discovery Learning

- Presenting students with a situation in which they must discover new content, while receiving little, if any assistance.
- Example: Mathematics teacher challenges students to estimate the sum of two three-digit numbers and then asks them to invent their own strategy.



Enhanced Discovery Learning

- Teachers ensure students have knowledge of the content – may involve **DIRECT** instruction.
- Periodically ask students to generate ideas and explain their thinking.
- Teacher provides appropriate scaffolds.



An Approach that Makes Sense

When faced with the decision whether to use direct instruction or unassisted discovery learning, a teacher should opt for the former.

Discovery, PBL can be a powerful learning experience when teachers ensure students have the knowledge to understand content and provide guidance and interaction along the way.

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Questions

○ Please write down any questions you still may have.

Contact Us!



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