

ONLINE: Inquiry-based Learning

"I love how this course caters to student curiosity, and lets the kids lead the class."

Guadalupe R.

Preparing teachers for 21st century students requires a close look at what it means to teach and learn in increasingly networked, technology-rich, digital classrooms. Schools and teachers need to thoughtfully and intentionally design learning environments and tasks in which teachers explore issues that are relevant while developing pedagogies that are effective for a knowledge era. Utilizing new images and acquiring new expertise facilitates meaningful learning with technology.



This course offers a framework for teachers to plan lessons that promote Inquiry-based Learning (IBL). Starting with explaining a need for such a shift in education, the course shows how an IBL classroom works. Through multiple classroom examples, teachers are able to understand what specific and new roles they play and how to encourage student initiative, while ensuring that the focus remains on productive matters. The Inquiry-based Learning course details some models that teachers can adapt to meet specific needs of their class, as well as to monitor and enhance the learning of their students. Teachers learn practical and dynamic ways of evaluating their students' progress while also incorporating technology for better results.

Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Each online self-study course from Professional Learning Board includes:

- Convenient access anytime, anywhere, any device
- Interactive online textbook
- Implement practical resources and tools in your classroom
- Demonstrate comprehension with quizzes and checks for understanding
- Align with your Professional Learning Plan
- Print, email and save your Certificates of Completion



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Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction to IBL

- The need of an Inquiry Based Learning (IBL) approach and knowing the constituents involved
- Academic research that supports IBL
- Differences between IBL and traditional education
- Define roles of teachers and students

LESSON 2: Inquiry-based Learning Model

- The need for a model to apply the IBL approach
- Various models developed by academicians
- Practical applications of the inquiry model for teaching lessons
- The emotional trajectory of an inquiry process

LESSON 3: Designing IBL

- The foundations for IBL through effective lesson plans and activities
- Ways to classify students based on their understanding and experience with IBL
- Manage the dynamic classroom environment
- Principles and methods of assessing students

LESSON 4: Enhancing the IBL Classroom

- Creation of a support system for effective inquiry-based learning
- Use of technology to enhance the IBL experience
- Technology as a tool for professional development
- Web tools that can help at different stages of inquiry