



Problem-Based Learning for Developing Holistic Future-Ready Graduates

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President
Society of Engineering Education Malaysia

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Outline

- Background: The status quo...
- Problem-Based Learning: Why and What
- The problem in PBL
- Scaffolding for learning in PBL: Cooperative Problem-Based Learning (CPBL)
- On becoming a PBL practitioner ...



Doubling the knowledge base:

1750 - 1900: 150 years to double

1900 - 1950: 50 years to double

1950 - 1960: 10 years to double

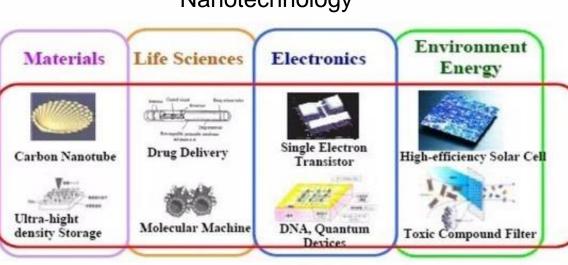
1960 - 1992: 5 years to double

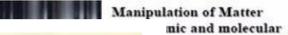
The Information Avalanche from advancement in digital technology





Nanotechnology



















Theranos – Elizabeth Holmes

Theranos: Scandal hit bloodtesting firm to shut

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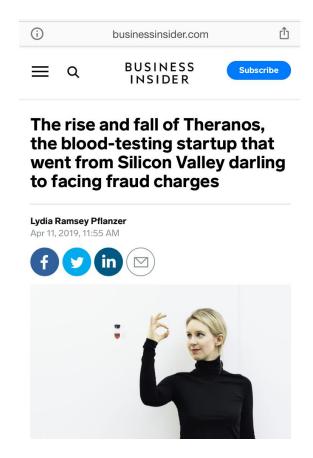








Scandal-hit US blood-testing start-up Theranos is to formally dissolve, the firm's chief executive David Taylor has told shareholders in an email.



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

BUSINESS | HEALTH CARE | HEALTH

Blood-Testing Firm Theranos to Dissolve

Firm, tarred by scandal, will pay creditors its remaining cash



Elizabeth Holmes, CEO of Theranos, in New York in 2015. According to a new email to shareholders, the company plans to dissolve.

So, what happened?





Effects of Climate Change?
What about the Covid-19 pandemic?





Three Pillars of Sustainable Development – really caring for all that matters













So what characteristics must our graduates have to be future-ready?

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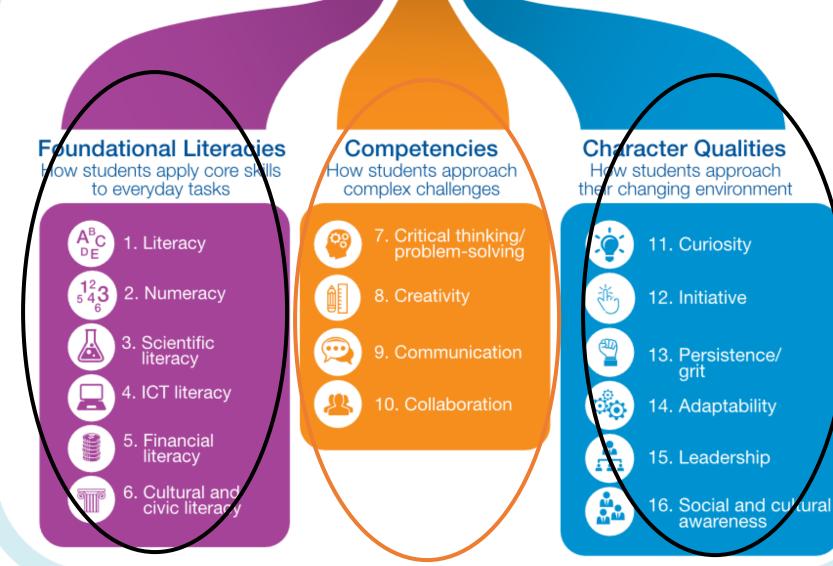


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21st-Century Skills



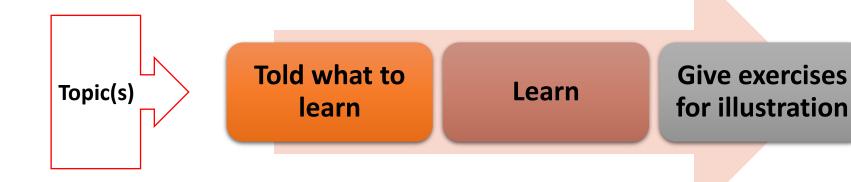
Lifelong Learning

New Vision for Education Report, World Economic Forum, 2015





Commonly used Teaching and Learning (T&L) Model



Deductive T&L

PBL: Is it possible to turn it the other way around?

Problem

Identify what to learn

Learn

Apply

Inductive T&L

learning

Powerful for engaging learning

& developing self directed





Why use problems? The Psychology behind using PROBLEMS...

Multi-dimensional and integrative

Leads to immersion and engagement

PROBLEM

catalyst for inquiry, learning and problem solving

Mimic real-world demands

Activates prior knowledge as a base to acquire new knowledge





The PBL philosophy

- A constructivist perception of learning and teaching:
 - **Learning** is the student's individual process of constructing knowledge and meaning
 - Teaching is the "setting up of a situation from which a motivated learner cannot escape without having learned" (Cowan)
- In other words: Student-Centred Learning (SCL)
- Many different models exist



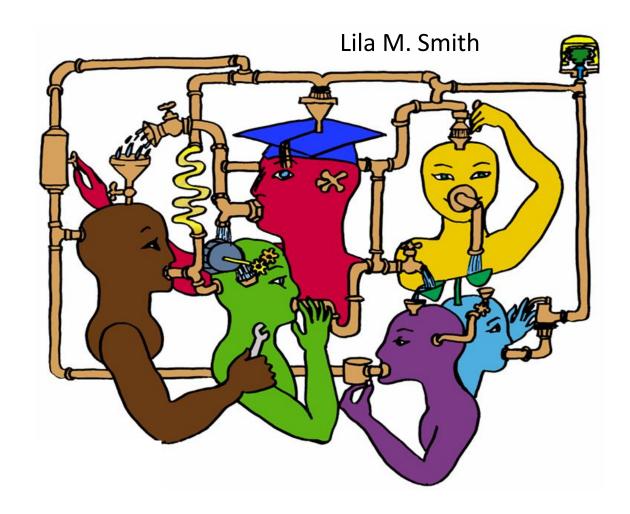
Adapted from Dahms, M. (2007)





"PBL in the classroom is not only about infusing problems into the class, but also about creating opportunities for students to construct knowledge through effective interactions and collaborative inquiry."

Tan, O. S. (2003) in *Problem-based Learning Innovation*



Re: Plant Visit Reflection by student A- Sunday, 2 April 2006, 08:41 PM

Dear friends who go to plant vist: 1. what is the relationship between the feed in percetage of fatty acid will effect the fatty acid in IGPO? e.g: is that true when increase %FA in feed flow, the FA in IGPO will increase? 2. Does the feed 1500kg/hr is constant? can we manipulate it?

- 3. I just want to confirm is that true that increase of pressure will increase the FA in IGPO?
- 4. How many control system that we actually need to design? is that unlimited or just those which is necessary?

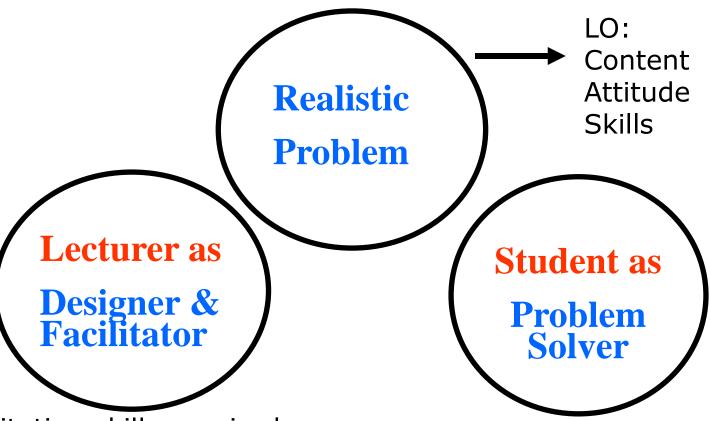
Re: Plant Visit Reflection by Student B - Tuesday, 4 April 2006, 11:00 AM

- 1)SOO HUI, u ask abt da flowrate of fatty acid right?actually the flowrate off fatty acid from the storage tank is control by pump..so, its not highly fluctuate, cz already got pump.
- 2)actually, we reduce the amount of fatty acid from in the feed.that is (15% to 3%)...so to reduce the FA% contain in feed, the temperature actually high than 300oC at atmospheric preesure. thats why this company try to reduce the boiling point of the oil by reduce the pressure,..this concept is simillar, when u boil the water at low pressure..the boiling point of water is 100oC at atm pressure,but at lower preesure,the boiling point is < than 100oC.
- 3)the most important control variables is temperature in the stripping column, but we still need to control level.in order to control temperature, we must maintain our vacum pressure,





Problem-Based Learning Approach



Facilitation skills required to make thinking visible. Proper assessment made on both content and process. Need TRAINING!

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Do not readily have the skills for PBL - must be prepared and motivated by lecturers

Adapted from Tan, 2003





Part of a 3rd Year Student's Meta-reflection

I felt, this class is incredible. **Technical knowledge** is a definite yes, of course we learnt what was supposed to be learnt, those things covered in the course outline. But more importantly, I think my **thinking have matured**, I think I learn how to look past what is in front of the eyes, and I think I can control my emotions better now compared to how I was when I first entered uni.... I also discovered some weaknesses which I need to improve on. First thing first, I need to get some of my negative thinking out of the way, and focus more on the good stuff so that I don't get depressed so easily as I do now, haha. Second of all, I need to learn to calm down at critical times to think rationally. And third of all, I need to welcome feedback, opinions, and different perspectives in a better and more open-minded way.





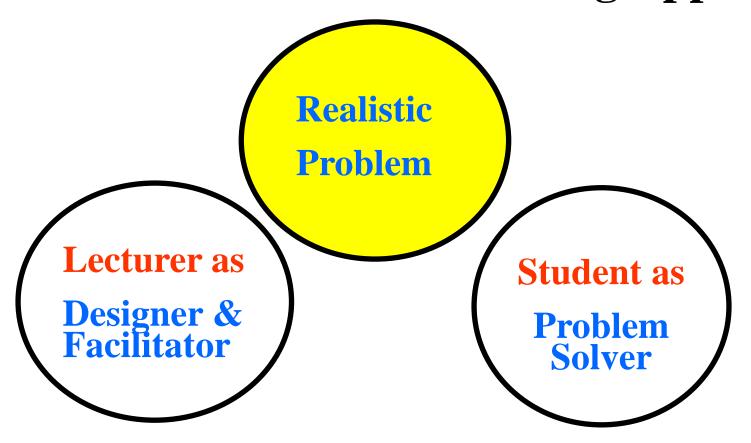
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Problem-Based Learning Approach







Problem Solving Topology

What's the Difference?

Problem Solving

- Process to obtain best answer to an unknown, subject to constraints
- Ill defined
- Novel
- No explicit statement
- More than one approach
- Algorithm to solve unclear
- Integration of knowledge
- Strong skills of presenting results

Exercise Solving

(Syed Helmi, 2011)

- Process to obtain the one and only answer
- Well defined
- Encounter similar problem before
- Explicit, hints given
- Usually one approach to one answer
- Recall familiar solutions usual method
- Subject by subject
- Presentation skills not required





Sample Problem 1 – A (Facilities Planning)

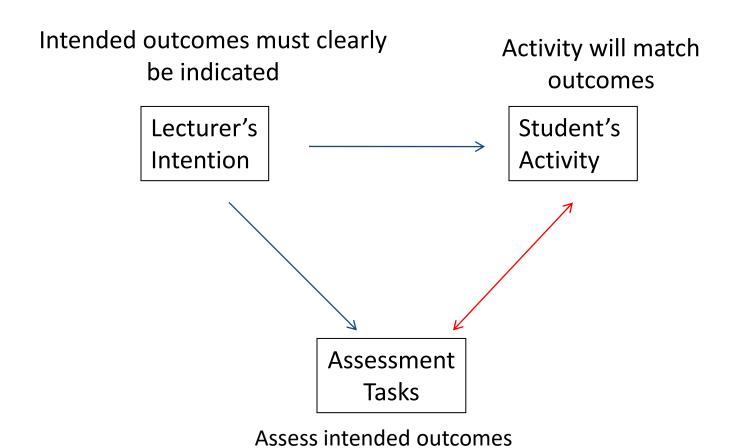
You are a group of the students' representative for UTM Students' Society. Due to the demand from your friends, especially the Southern-Tiger's Football Club fans, your society is planning to open a Mamak restaurant in UTM Skudai. The society allocated RM250,000 capital investment for this project. Where will you establish your first restaurant? Keep in mind that your task is to make as much profit as possible from this investment.

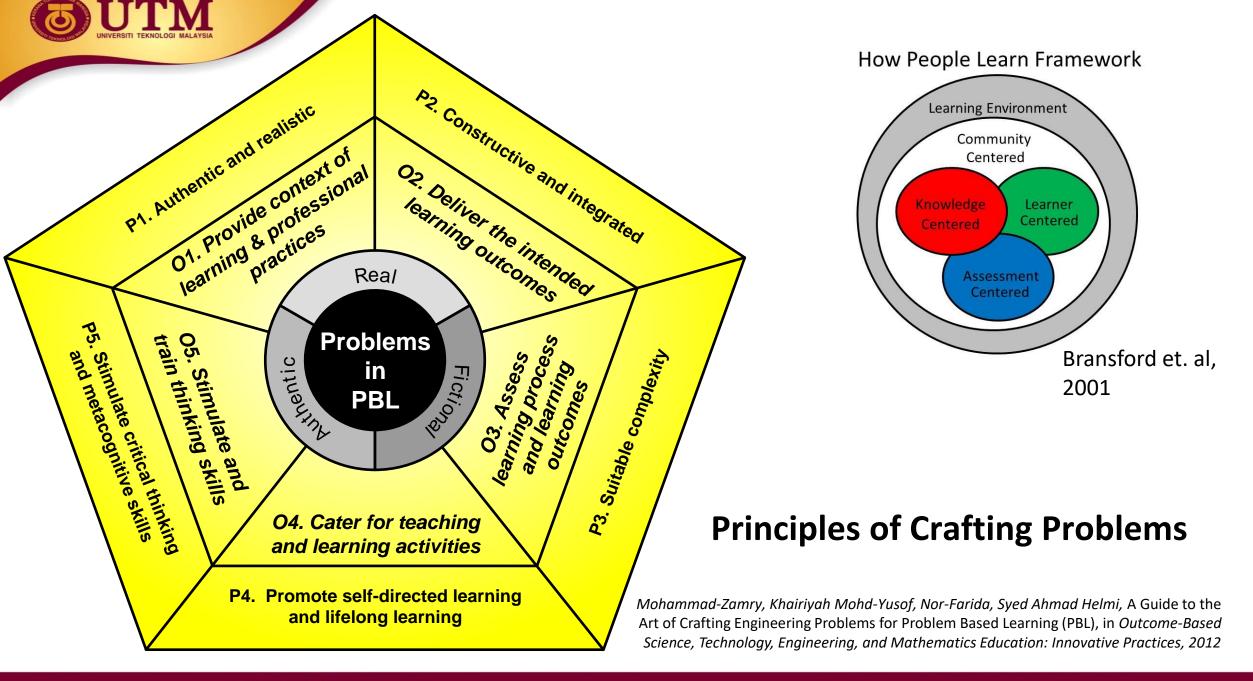
(Syed Helmi, 2015)

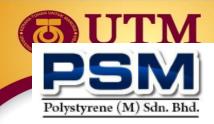




Where to start when crafting problems? Constructive Alignment (John Biggs, 1999)









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Polystyrene (M) Sdn. Bhd.

www.polystyrenemalaysia.com

PLO 4225, Jalan Perdana 3/5, 81700 Pasir Gudang, Johor.

Dear candidates.

The selection committee of Polystyrene (M) Sdn. Bhd. is very interested in interviewing your team for the opportunity to undergo industrial training at our company. The interview session is scheduled on 28th December 2009, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, in the meeting room, Human Resource Department, Polystyrene (M) Sdn. Bhd.

With regards to the interview session, we would like you to demonstrate your understanding on one of our processing plants, the HDA Process, in a 3-5 page report. Please systematically describe the process from a system's point of view. Be sure to include the input and output variables involved in the process. Explain all the automatic control systems: classify the variables, identify the control objective, and identify the control configuration used for each control loop. Please comment if the control configurations used are sufficient to tackle the disturbances. Enclosed are the process description and a simplified P&ID of the HDA Process for your reference.

Sample problem for Process Control and Dynamics, a 3rd year chemical engineering course

Outcome:

identify manual, feedback, inferential, feedforward, ratio, split-range and cascade control systems for commonly controlled process variables.

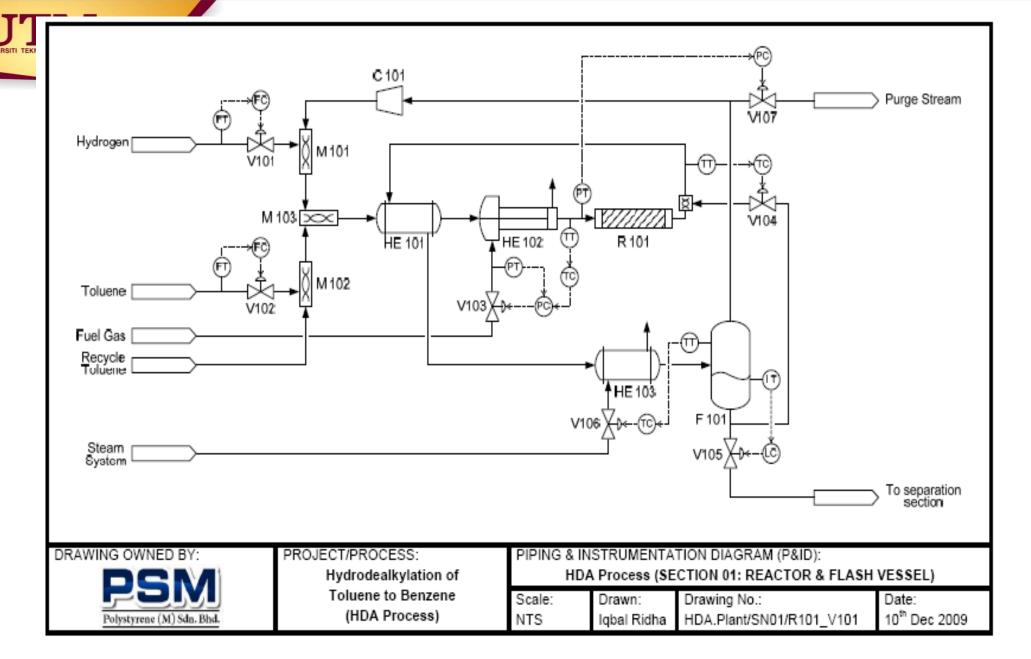


Figure 1: HDA Process



Part of FGD report on students who had undergone CPBL (Strobel, 2008)

<u>Theme: Relationship between PBL class and industry experience</u>

Since the students just returned from an industry experience over the summer, the researcher added an additional line of questions to capture students' thoughts on the difference between their PBL class and their industry setting. Primary interest was the assessment of the students of the authenticity of the PBL environment in light of their very recent industry experience.



"unprepared" to get into their industry experience, since they counted their PBL class as a precursor or "small industry experience". When pressed to compare the two, students acknowledged that the PBL class was small scale authentic compared to the industry experience.

Two students shared more details: They described how in both, the PBL class and in the industry setting, they had to perform a similar task. While in the PBL class the volume was a couple of pages, in industry the amount of material was several large manuals. The industry experience needed them to scale their experience up.



Social Science Problem

- Complex but students always assume it can be solved without conducting any learning, searching, self-reading etc. – Common Sense / Logical thinking solution based on existing thoughts – NOT FACT!
- Social Science problem always looks familiar to students.



Example...

The collapse of Highland Tower signifies the disastrous construction practice. Failure to provide proper advice and service as required by the professional body can be damaging. As highlighted by Judge Azlan, failure to conform to the standard practice may lead to negligence. Based on some remarkable cases such as Dr. Abdul Hamid vs. Jurusan Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. Analyse and comment on the existence of tort liability in the project undertaking. Highlight some important concepts negligence together with the supporting evidences.

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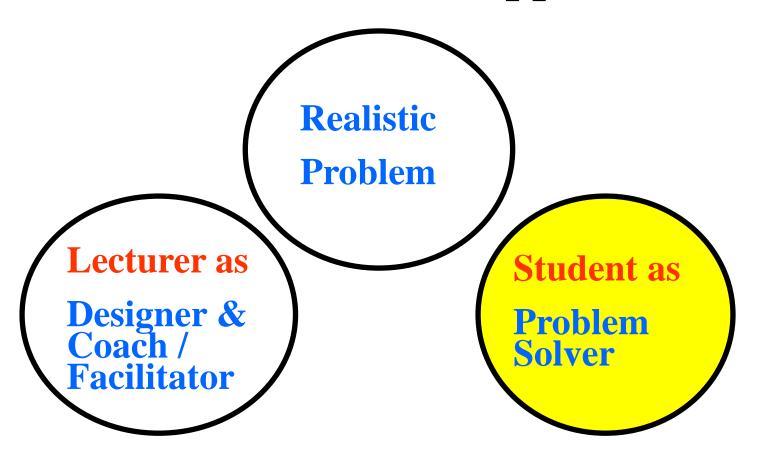
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Problem-Based Approach





Coping with change – need to explain and rationalize => MOTIVATE!!

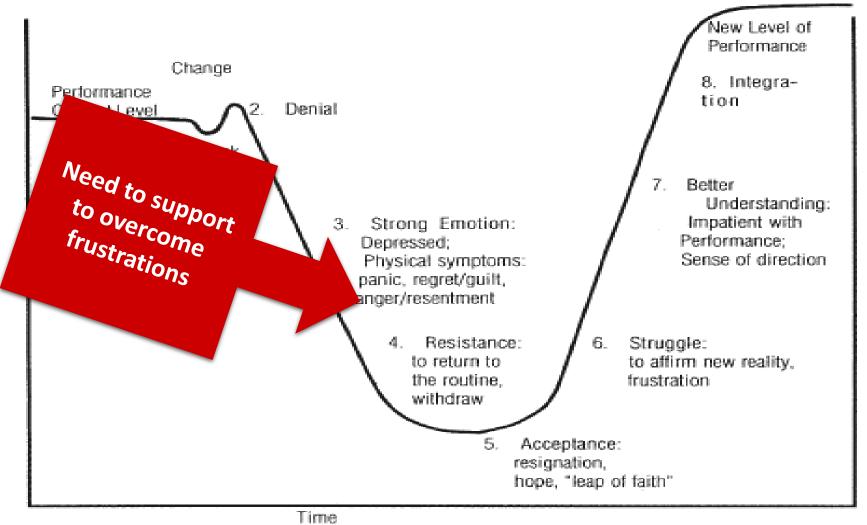


Figure 1-1 The grieving process as a model of how we cope with change

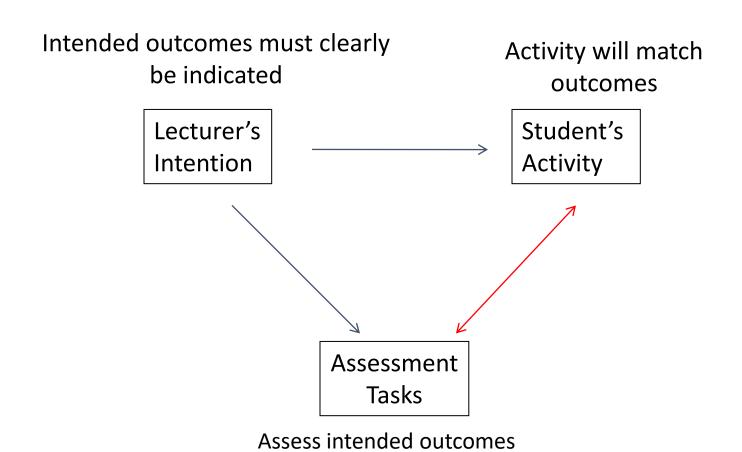
Woods, 1994







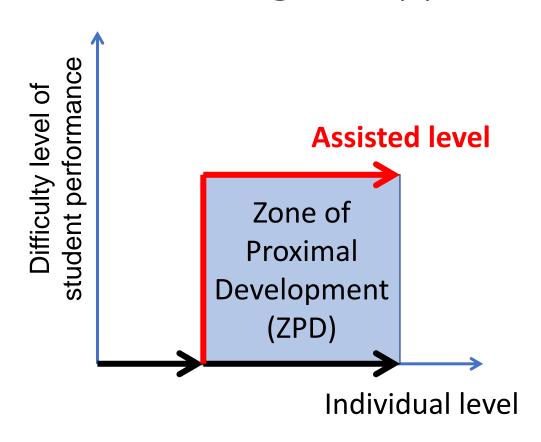
How to support students to reach the outcomes? Constructive Alignment (John Biggs, 1999)







Scaffolding to support student learning

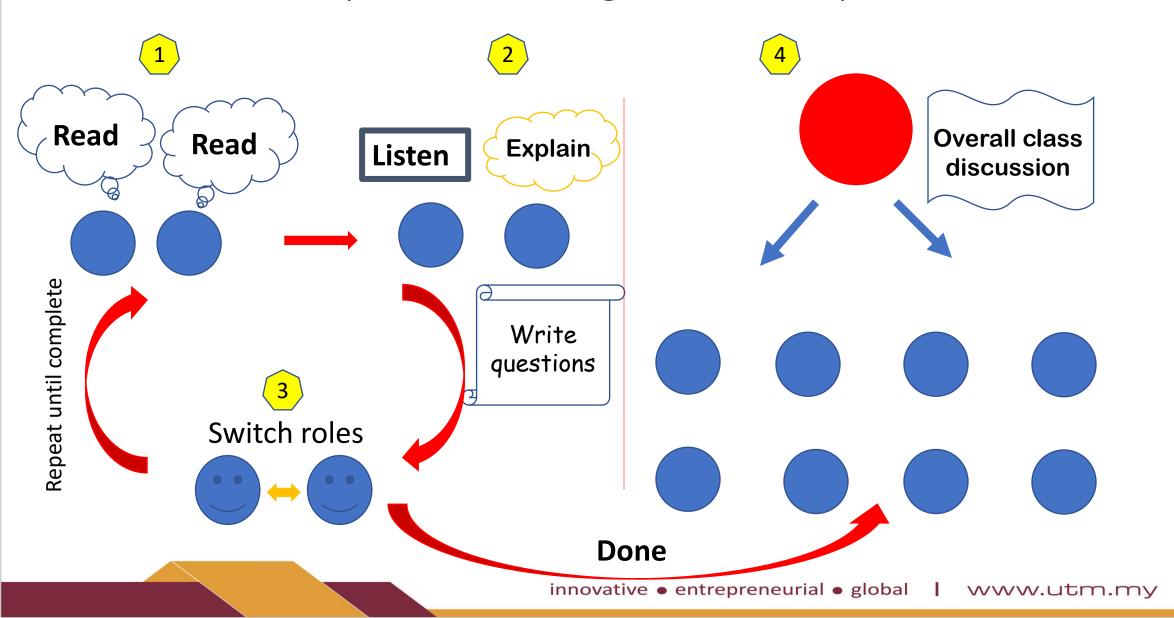


ZPD = Distance between individual performance and performance with social support (Vygotsky)





Sample scaffolding: Read & Explain Pairs







Motivation Scaffolding from alumni who had gone through CPBL

Alumni A: Currently a senior lecturer in a university

In reality, CPBL has a bigger impact on self discovery, self directed learning and also deep learning. I take an example in the company I have work with before. I was appointed as an Engineer to support the production department and increase the production capacity and efficiency. Having a background in Chemical Engineering doesn't help me much in the company business since it is more towards manufacturing, mechanical, electrical and electronics. I was introduced to a field that is totally new to me. I have to learn new terminologies, new jargon, new system that I have not encounter before. But I would say that having the experience with CPBL really help me in those days. Having a clear mindset to solve a problem in which I have never encounter before. Yeah, seems like CPBL all over again. But this time, you are facing with real problems and real people with real machines and you are held accountable on each and every little words that you say in the team meeting. Hence, the info gathering has to be swift and accurate, sources must be reliable. It really help me in being more independent and delivering the job in more accurate and efficient manner.





Alumni B: Leadership level in multi-national Oil and Gas company

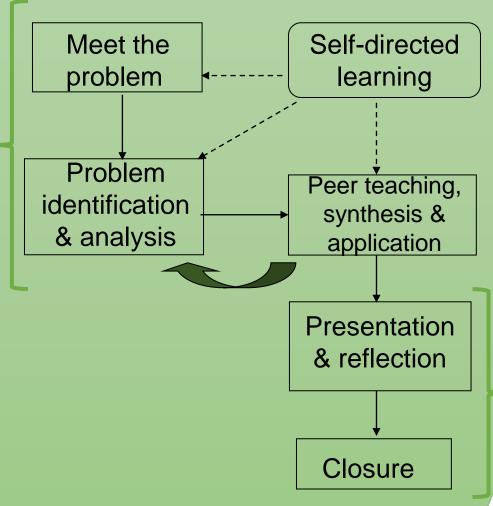
What I think and feel on CPBL??? It is the perfect platform to warm me up from a "student thinking" to a "real-life thinking" when I first got myself into the working world. Prior to PBL, I was brought up via conventional text-book learning methodology where all the problems were explicitly defined and solutions were pre-determined. The disadvantage with this conventional way of learning is confining us (Engineer) that every problem/issue that we faced will only be resolved with a certain solutions. In my experience of the working in the O&G industry, this is certainly not the case.

When I got the offer as Internship Trainee, besides the offer letter. what came together was an email from my Line Manager on what is my job tasks in the Internship training. Guess what? Reading the email gave me a very similar "feel" as the Case Study assignment that I've been doing in the E-learning via PBL with Prof. Khairiyah and this is why I could assure you CPBL is the perfect "warm-up" of transitioning a Graduate to an Engineer. It can be frustrating, painful and troublesome going through this learning process but I can assure you that you would be grateful that you are exposed in a learning environment in University where you are well guided and it's OK to make mistake and learn from it. Working in the industry, it's NOT OK to make mistake as the consequences could be catastrophic. Hence, my sincere advise to you would be to cherish this golden opportunity where you could make full use of this learning opportunity in developing you to be a successful Engineer in future.

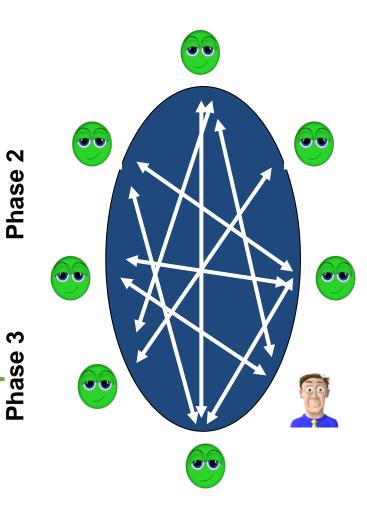




The PBL Process



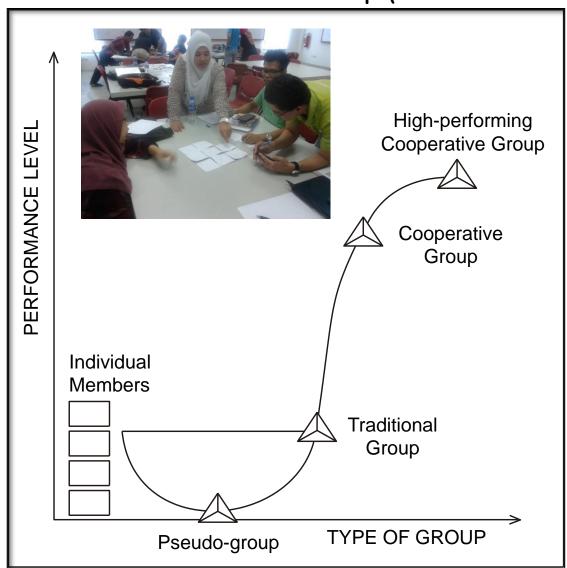
Typical PBL Medical School Model







Cooperative Learning Implementation:
Performance Level of a Group (from K. Smith, 2007)



Cooperative Learning Principles

Positive interdependence

Individual accountability

Face to face interaction

Appropriate interpersonal skills

Regular group function assessment





Informal Cooperative Learning Pattern

Individual construction



Involves everyone!

Construction and interaction with neighbor/team member



Overall class interaction with instructor

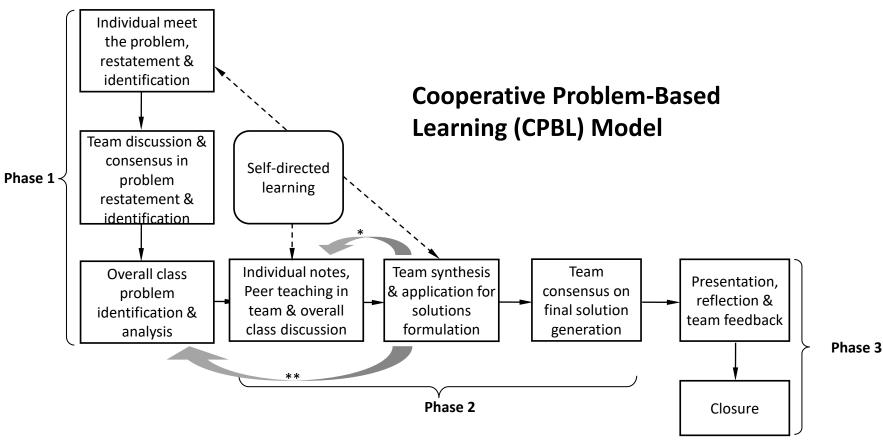








Cooperative Problem-based Learning (CPBL)



^{*} Insufficient understanding of learning issues to solve problem

^{**}Incomplete or misunderstanding of problem requirements



Typical class setting for CPBL in SCEE UTM





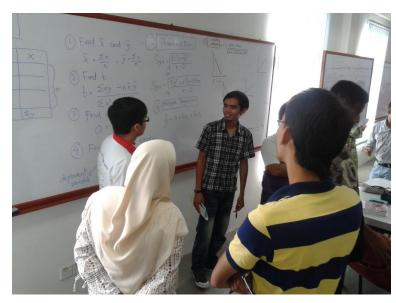
Team peer teaching session







CPBL Class at School of Mechanical Engineering UTM: Team and class peer teaching sessions

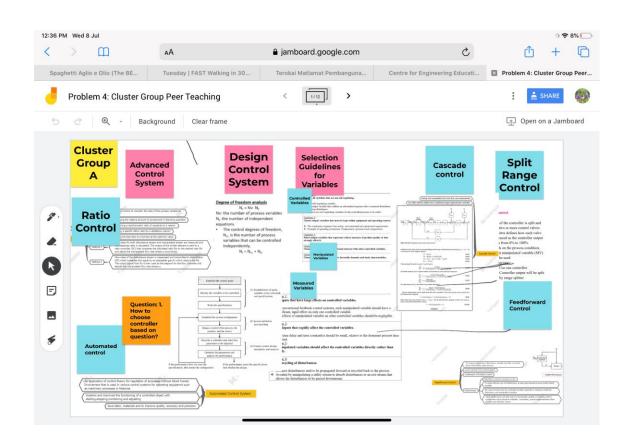




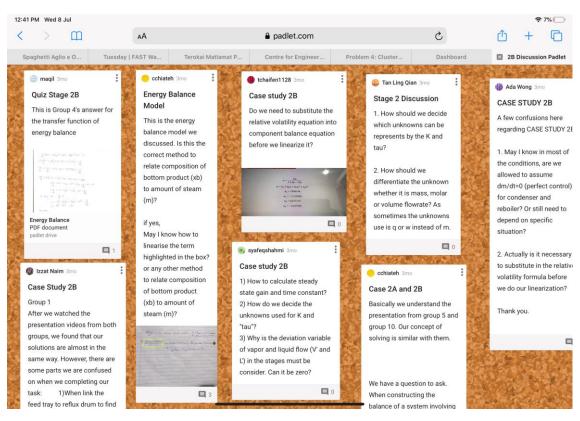




CEEC lass peer teaching and discussion using Jamboard and Padlet



CENTRE FOR ENGINEERING EDUCATION

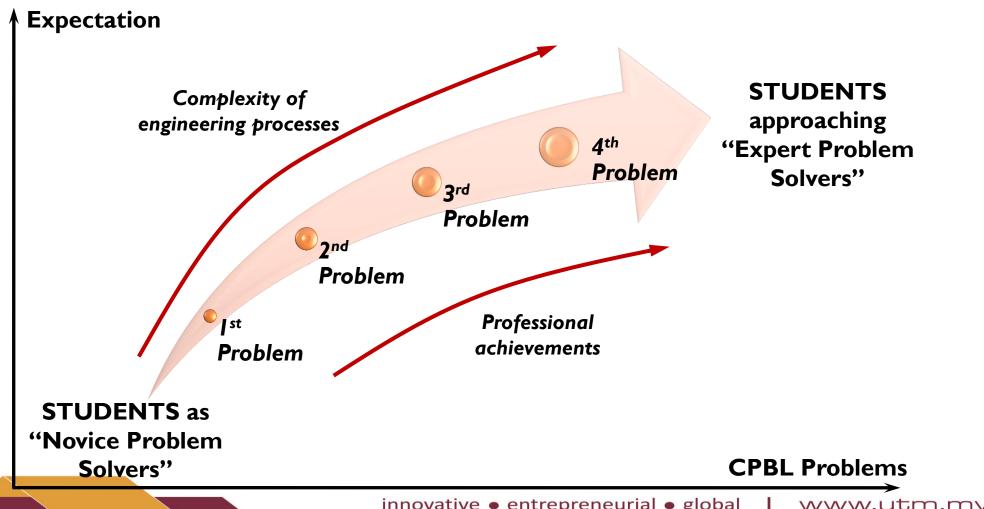






Series of Problems

Scaffolding in organization of problems for a whole semester in a course







FINAL CASE STUDY

Design of Automatic Control System for CCM Chemicals (M) Sdn Bhd

The Scenario

Now that you have experience as a process engineer, you have decided to join a process control consultancy firm, PARAGON Consulting Sdn. Bhd.. You are hired because of your knowledge in chemical engineering, experience as a process engineer, and credentials. Since many of the firm's engineers are electrical and mechanical engineers, your job scope includes: i) provide expertise to other engineers to understand, describe and analyze chemical processes, and ii) design automatic control systems for chemical processes. One Tuesday morning, you received the following email from the general manager:

Reply	Reply all	Forward	Delete	Print	Back	Next
To: Design Team <design.team@paraqon.my></design.team@paraqon.my>						
From: Abu Bakar Iman (abi@paragon.my> Date: 29/03/2011 11:00AM						ARAGON
Subject: Design of automatic control system for CCM Chemicals					•	

Good day engineers,

I had a meeting with CCM Chemicals' plant manager last week. They are now having problems with the existing control systems of their chlorine gas absorption processes. To be specific, they are facing difficulty to maintain the process variables at the desired operating conditions. Plus, they are experiencing inconsistencies in the online measurement of the product specs too. There are two chlorine gas absorption columns operating, as part of Chloralkali Process for chlorine production, in the company. At the moment, CCM Chemicals is urgently looking for a prospective consultancy firm to solve these problems. Due to our excellent track record in the previous consultancy projects, thou've invited us to hid for this project. Therefore I want your team to design/modify the

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Real industrial problem: Infusing deep understanding and professional skills development among 3rd Year Chemical Engineering Students





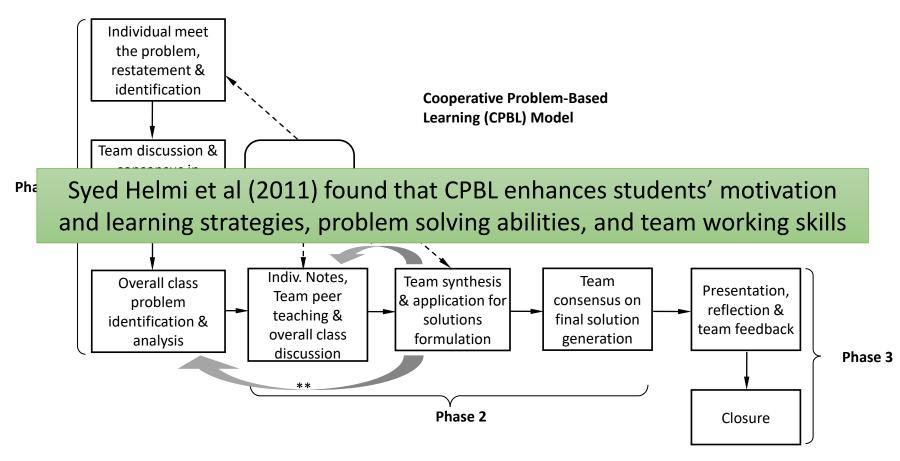








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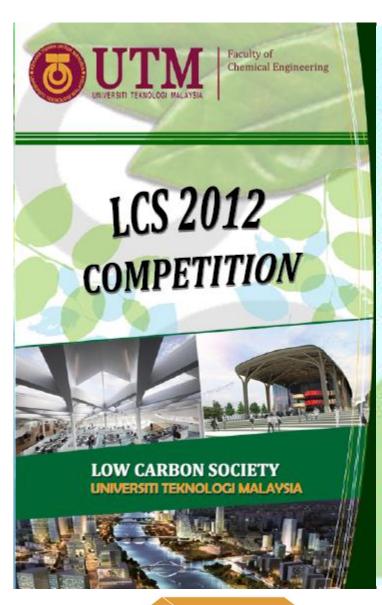




INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING

Water Conservation Problem





INTRODUCTION

In line with the region's vision of "a sustainable metropolis of international standing", Iskandar Malaysia (IM) hopes to become a low carbon-emission society by 2025. As such, Low Carbon Society Competition (LCS 2012) is organised.

Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) in collaboration with Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) would like to solicit ideas from all levels of its community to proposed an innovative sustainable solutions for resource conservation in creating low carbon society (LCS). The propose innovations will help to reduce the amount of carbon-dioxide emissions at a national level and create a road map towards a low carbon society at either a regional or city level. The propose innovations in Iskandar Malaysia (IM) is expected to be a showcase of the best practice not only for this region and this country but also for Asian regions. In order to ensure the practicability of the recommended solutions, benchmarking with world-wide and Malaysia practices should be conducted.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this competition are:

- To familiarize with the concept of Low Carbon Society and eco-community.
- To differentiate different types of resource conservation efforts to reduce carbon (world wide and Malaysia scenario).
- To establish current carbon intensity in IM.
- To propose cost competitive resource conservation strategy to reduce carbon intensity in IM.
- To promote awareness in developing LCS to residential community in IM.

Instilling values and change behaviour on environmen-tal SD

DEADLINES

There are three stages of the contest. All contestants must go through all the three stages. All teams will go into the final round where they will compete with other contestants for the grand prize in a solid waste management Campaign Day.



 STAGE I: FAMILIRIZATION OF LOW CARBON SOCIETY, RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND BENCHMARKING Begins 2/10/2011; Due 15/10/2011

STAGE II: DETAIL ANALYSIS ON PARTICULAR RESOURCE CONSERVATION

EFFORT

Begins 23/10/2011; Due 21/11/2011

Begins 23/11/2011; Due 20/12/2011

PROPOSAL SPECIFICATIONS

At the end of Stage III, every participating team is required to submit a o STAGE III: PROPOSE ENGINEERING SOLUTION AN comprehensive, final written proposal that should contain, but not limited to, the following items:

- Perform a preliminary study on LCS and resource conservation concepts Global scenario of resource conservation efforts to reduce carbon and current residential practices worldwide and in Malaysia.
- Propose engineering solution.
- Perform economic analysis to find the least resource conservation strategy to reduce carbon.

To support your understanding about IM scenario, IRDA will provide you with the relevant blue print and references upon request. Winning proposals are sought for projects that are viewed to be most environmentally-sound as well as economical viable based on resource conservation concept.

STAGE 1 SPECIFICATIONS

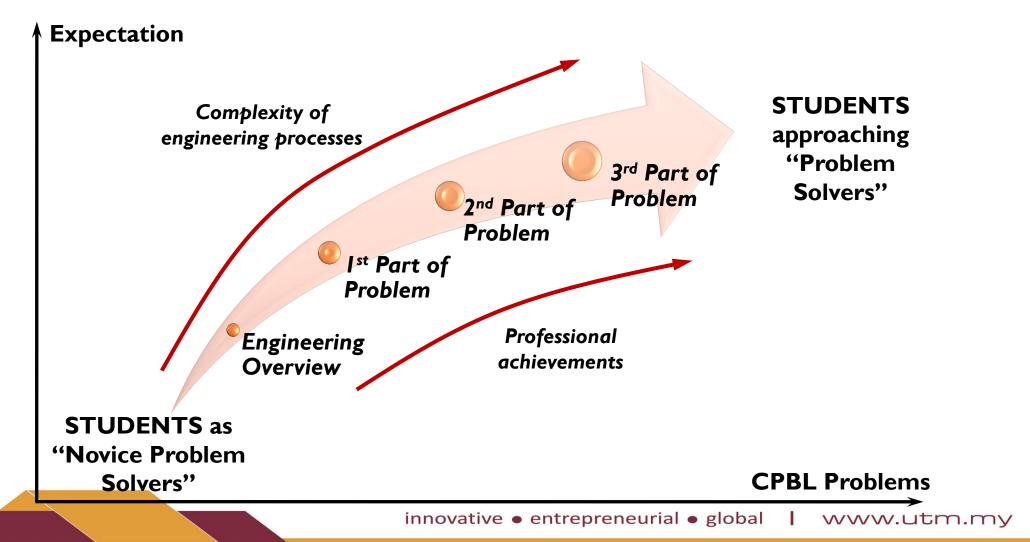
Participating teams are required to perform a preliminary study on LCS and resource. conservation concepts to benchmark where practices in Malaysia compared to those at the international level, with particular emphasis on the current community practices, such as residential areas and schools. Information must be gathered from reliable sources and analyzed to determine current consumption habits and conservation efforts that can be used for benchmarking. You are required to submit a first stage report on Oct 15, 2012 before 5pm and present your findings to the evaluation panel in a seminar that will be held on Oct 16. Each team will be given 7 minutes to present followed by 3 minutes Q&A session.







SDG-based problems for an Introduction to Engineering course since 2005





Impact on SD



Professional skills	Reflective journal	Example of quotations from the reflective journals
Sustainable Development	RJ I (Student H)	The whole process was a new experience and it was worth the time and effort we put into it. I learned that food waste was a problem to human being in term of environmental hazard and economic cost. Before this, I never even care about the leftovers and did not know much on it, but now I know that it can even be turn into a sellable products.
	RJ2 (Student H)	I can see what is going on with food waste in Malaysia and other countries. Malaysia does not have proper food waste management and it could be problematic if no solution that need to be taken seriously. So from here, I learned that if I not start to life in sustainability from now, it could affect country because the country only can be changed with the citizens' behaviors.
		Before this assignment, I never realize that the amount of food waste that us as humankind produced is in so enormous amount about 670 million tonnes of food wasted annually. This shows that we didn't really appreciate the value of food and the importance of food. The current food waste generation habits that include over-buying and don't use up the leftovers mainly contribute to this problem worldwide.





Developing PS Skills

Reflective	It is a big pressure for me to handle as it is not a thing that I
Journal 1 (S3)	really familiar with. We have to face the first stage of this PBL
	that involved a lot of group discussion, completing the report and
	presentation.
Reflective	I have to do a lot of research in order to get ideas on how to
Journal 2 (S3)	conserve energy in school. This is very stressful moment for me
	as the number of tasks to be completed was increased.
Reflective	Honestly, I am very happy with the report as each of us gives full
Journal 3 (S3)	commitment to complete it. All these work are not easy as abc as
	each of us need to brainstorm like a half dead person to come out
	with a good report. However, it taught me to be patient and don't
	give up even though the challenges are big.









Skudai River: 23 tons/day of municipal waste



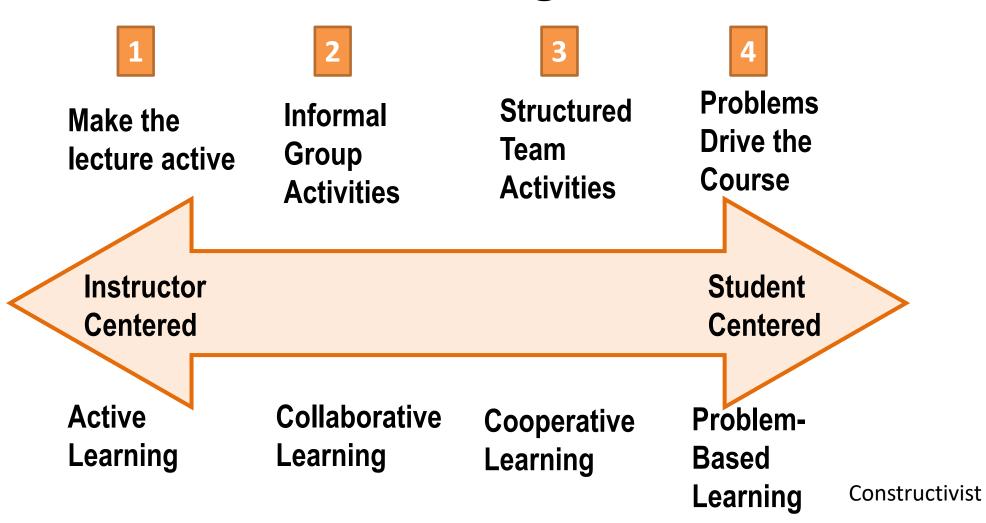


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The Active Learning Continuum





Student A: Feedback on PBL given to Strobel (2008)

Actually I don't like. PBL but in reality PBL helps me a lot. It really helps me a lot to learn new skills. Using PBL need more effort and be more independent person. If before this, lecture always gives us everything, but using PBL, we need to be more independent to find out what we need to learn. In this class, we are given a case study. To solve the case study, we need to find out learning issue that we must learn by our self and work with the content that we have to solve the problem. Using PBL student becomes an active learner. Using PBL also can improve our communication skills. In PBL we need to work with our teammates. Sometimes when we may not understand something, but teammates can helps us in understand better. We can try to solve the case study together. Doing our case study, we need to cooperate with each other.. PBL make me talk more during discussion and giving my opinion. What I can say is, PBL helps me a lot.

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Reflection on Implementing PBL

Be sincere – a test of sincerity because of initial resistance, detractors and work involved

Need to embrace constructivism as a teaching philosophy

Student centric – what helps students to learn, not what is easy

Be open – listen and talk to others in the field

Implement PBL in own life – be self-directed, reflective learner!

Collaborate – especially those with different expertise



Coping with change – lecturers may also go through the trauma cycle!!



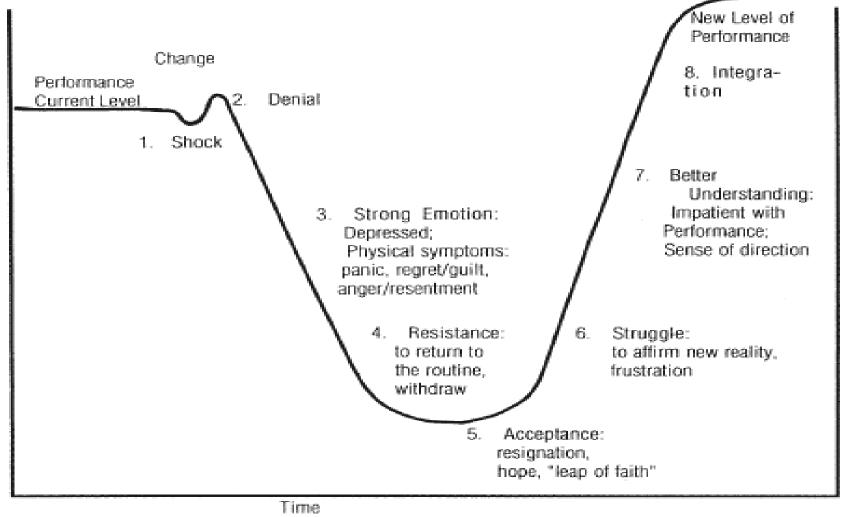


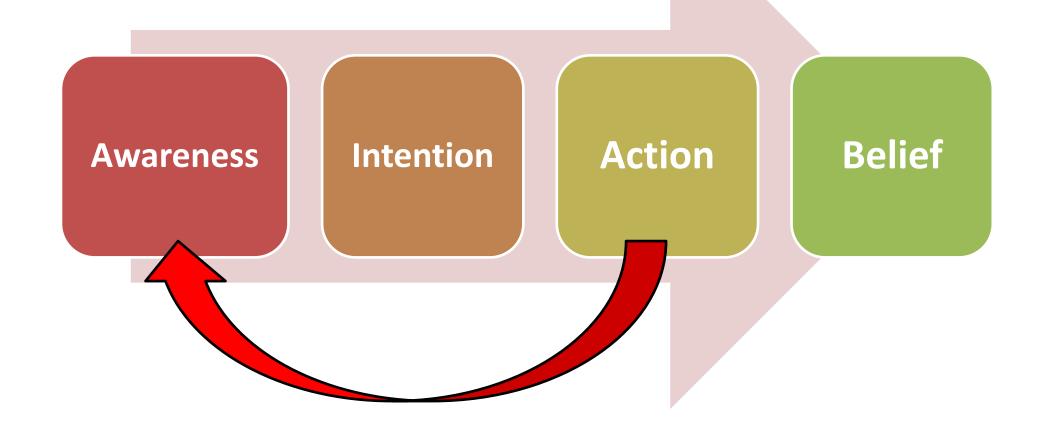
Figure 1-1 The grieving process as a model of how we cope with change

Reproduced from "Problem-based Learning: How to Gain the Most from PBL" with permission, Donald R. Woods, © 1994

Woods, 1994



Research: Shift from Teacher Centered to Student Centered

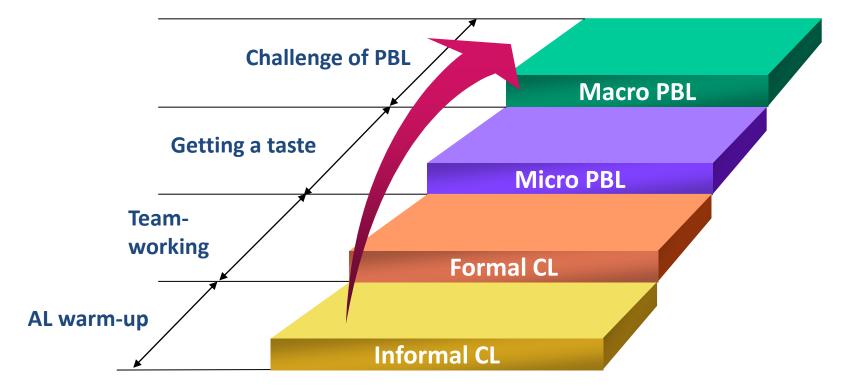






Gradual move in SCL techniques ...

If unfamiliar with student-centered learning techniques, start gradually



Need to go for training & embrace lifelong learning!



21st-Century Skills



Foundational Literacies

How students apply core skills to everyday tasks



1. Literacy



2. Numeracy



3. Scientific literacy



4. ICT literacy



5. Financial literacy



6. Cultural and civic literacy

Competencies

How students approach complex challenges



7. Critical thinking/ problem-solving



8. Creativity



9. Communication



10. Collaboration

Character Qualities

How students approach their changing environment



11. Curiosity



12. Initiative



13. Persistence/ grit



14. Adaptability



15. Leadership



16. Social and cultural awareness

Lifelong Learning



Sustaining academic change – tips for the champion

Learn – read and go for training

Take scholarly approach

Give seminars and training – take the lead

Write and publish

– reflective

practitioner

Be part of the community – local and global

Understand the system and make the best of it

Have a clear MISSION and be sincere in INTENTION





21st century educator



Learner focused educator – what helps learners to meaningfully learn, eg: being guide by the side rather than sage on the stage



Learning environment designer – effective learning environment (HPL)



Team player – work together for meaningful, systemic implementation and as part of a community



Lifelong learner – the only constant is change

