



Work-Based Learning Matrix

Project-based learning, service-learning, and internships are the three work-based learning types that providers implement as part of their C2L program structure. Choose one that fits with your organization’s mission and goals, as well as the age and interests of youth who are part of the program to ensure that they grow and learn from the experience. Providers who serve a range of youth ages and interests may opt to implement more than one work-based learning type.

Work-Based Learning	Project-Based Learning (PBL)	Service-Learning	Internships
Overview	Teaching method in which students learn by actively engaging in real-world and personally meaningful projects.	Teaching and learning strategy that connects academic curriculum to community problem-solving. Youth engage in meaningful service projects that will develop empathy, social responsibility and teamwork skills.	Short-term opportunities where youth gain entry-level work experience in a particular industry or field, earning them pay or school credit through hands-on experience.
Advantages	Helps build 21 st century skills like critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication in areas like literacy, STEAM, health and wellness, and social studies. Youth are also able to practice social emotional skills like self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, and social awareness.	Engages youth and helps raise awareness of current issues by helping them understand that what they do in their community can have impacts elsewhere. Youth feel empowered to make changes and see how what they do impacts their community. Connects academics in a practical way by providing real-world experiences.	Youth participants gain work experience through hands-on activities allowing them to develop skills they may need in that profession. They learn and build skills like communication, professionalism, and working in a team. Youth gain social and emotional growth by building adaptability and resiliency skills through navigating new work environments, work dynamics, and challenges.



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Recommended Age-Range	Best for ages 12 - 14	Best for ages 14 - 18	Best for ages 16 - 24
Application	PBL starts with a driving question which is designed to get youth to answer an open-ended question by solving a problem. It is the driving force for the project and is designed to engage youth in their learning experience.	There are different types of service-learning Direct - person-to-person Indirect - broad and impacts the overall community Research-based - participants find and gather information to report on Advocacy - creates awareness about issues going on that can impact the community	Phases of connecting youth to internships: 1. Preparation and assessment 2. Partnership and outreach 3. Application and placement 4. Internship support and monitoring 5. Evaluation and follow-up
Example Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a mobile app to address a concern in the community • Developing a business plan to start a business • Run a recycling and sustainability program for the neighborhood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize and participate in community cleanup project • Tutoring at an afterschool program • Restore a historic building • Creating a guide in multiple languages on services offered in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth serving as a camp counselor • Youth working at an animal shelter • Youth shadowing at a law firm
Previous Virtual PD Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project-Based Learning • Creating Driving Questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Service-Learning Approach • Embedding 21st Century Skills in Service-Learning Projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Internships for Youth Success