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The Impact of Project-Based Learning on Student Content Knowledge in an Undergraduate, Teacher Preparatory, Foundations of Education Course

Madeline Craig Ed.D
Molloy College, mcraig@molloy.edu

Patricia N. Eckardt
Molloy College, teckardt@molloy.edu

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Drs. Madeline Craig & Patricia N. Eckardt
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Purpose of Study
Using Research to Inform Pedagogy

The purpose of this study is to determine the impact of project-based learning on student knowledge acquisition and the students' and researchers' perceptions of the use of project-based learning as a pedagogical tool.

This hypothesis-generating study seeks to discover the value of using project-based learning as a strategy in undergraduate *Foundations of Education* courses in a teacher education program during one semester, Spring 2019. Recommendations on the use of project-based learning as a pedagogical tool in a traditional (fully face-to-face) class and a hybrid (half online, half face-to-face) course may be made and disseminated.

Study's Objective

With the intent of adding to the quality of educational practices and student learning, this research study seeks to provide further insight into the impact of project-based learning as a pedagogical approach and to assist student conceptual understandings. This study hopes to inform the larger educational community as well as the researchers' instructional approach.

Data Collection

The research design for this qualitative study is hypothesis generating. Theoretical frameworks include project-based learning, sociocultural theory, and constructivism.

- Researchers' Field Notes
- Pre-Project Essential Question Response: *How can we improve (elementary or secondary) schools to better meet the needs of a diverse population of 21st century learners?*
- Student Reflective Survey - Mid-Project & End-of-Project
- Project-Based Learning Single-Point Rubric
- Project Outcome: *Four Blog Updates on Project Progress (included on Group Website), Culminating Project Website, and Choice of Final Outcome Creation (Brochure, Poster Board, Infographic, etc.)*
- Final Reflective Paper
- Final Exam (Short Answer/ Essay)

Project Outcome:

Assessment of the group includes: Website Home Page; Blog Updates (4) on website; Creative Option; Group Presentation

Assessment of each individual includes: One page on the website on one topic area using at least one other source. Topics include: *The Teaching Profession and You, Teaching Your Diverse Students, Multicultural History of American Education, Philosophy of Education, Financing and Governing America's Schools, Purposes of America's Schools and the Current Reform Movement*

Rubric

Developing Areas that Need Improvement	Meeting Expectations Co-constructed Standards for this Task	Exceeding Expectations Evidence of Exceeding Standards
	Group based Assessments	
	Website Page 1: Blog Updates (four) on how your group is making progress on your project: o All Blog updates must be at least 150 words (except vlog update) o One blog – Vlog (Video-based) o Two blogs – Must include pictures of team members working together and/or image of work being produced o Blog must be on group's website and the URL submitted to Canvas by the due date	
	Website Page 2: Inviting Home Page o School's Mission (Addresses diverse learners & purpose of education) o School's Name (Addresses inspiration for name and why it was chosen) o Images/Video to represent your school's environment/ culture (2-images minimum– cited) o Listing and bios of board members (group members)	
Developing Areas that Need Improvement	Meeting Expectations Co-constructed Standards for this Task	Exceeding Expectations Evidence of Exceeding Standards
	Website Page 3: Choice of Presentation/ Creation Option to include on website as a link or picture o Choices include: § Brochure § Poster Board § Infographic § Slide Show using video and images of group project § Other option? o Option MUST include at least one aspect of all 6 chapters' content	
	Presentation of Website & Choice to Audience o All group members take a part o Ten minutes for presentation o Ten minutes for Q&A o Creativity encouraged o Ability to effectively respond to questions about your school o Invited audience members will share input for assessment	

Conclusions & Outcomes

Data collection is being completed this week; we plan to analyze the data during the summer 2019 with plans to present our findings during the fall 2019 semester.

Student Work - Website
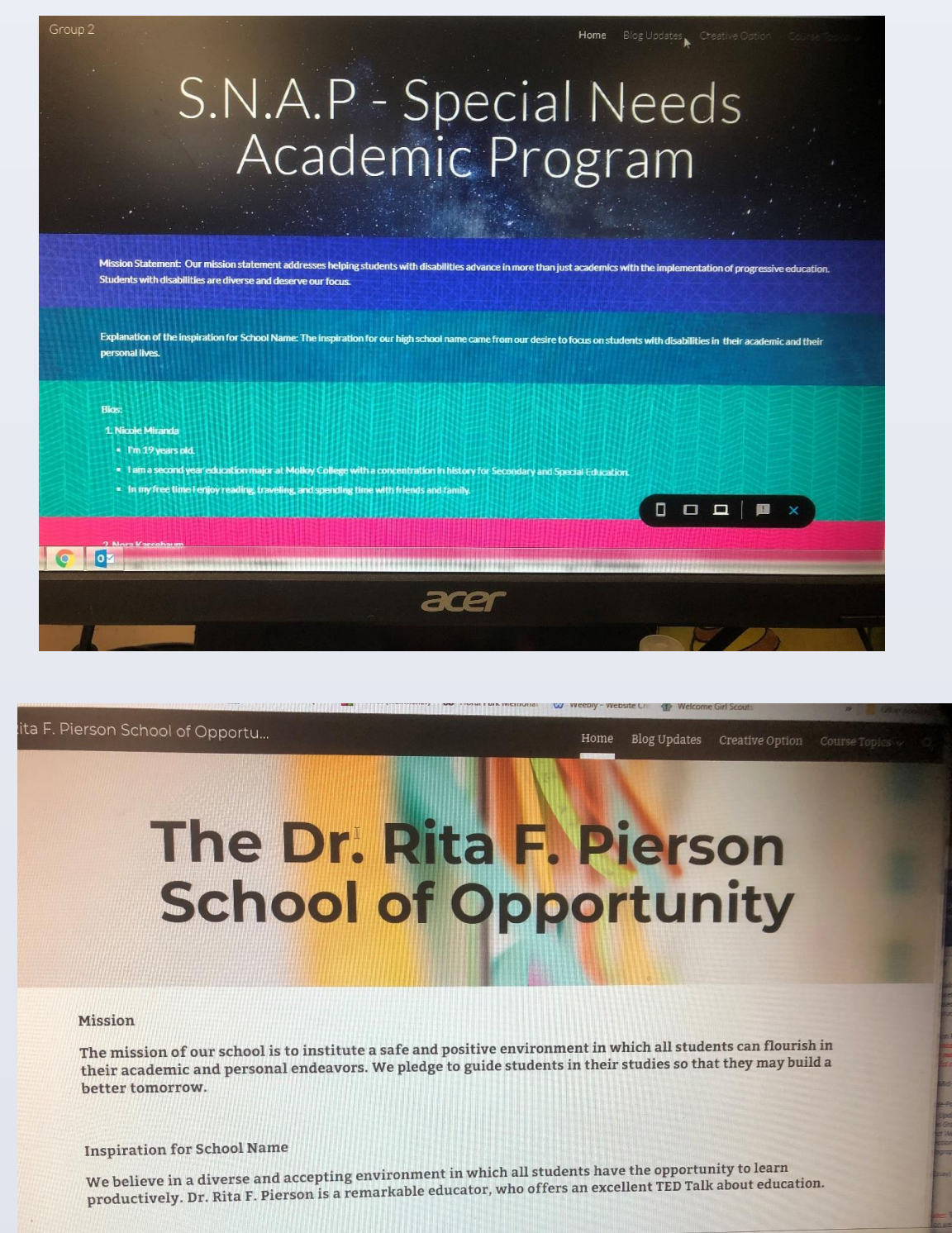
PBL & Collaboration

Student Work – Creative Option