

The Techniques and Process of Teaching Arts and Dance in Higher Education by Project based Learning Method

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Abstract

This article aims to study 1) the meaning and concept of project-based learning method 2) the techniques and process of teaching arts and dance based on project-based learning method. The scope of this study consists of a sample group of arts and dance teachers from 6 subject areas at the Faculty of Fine and applied arts, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, Bangkok Thailand. Data collection is based on document study, interviews, observations, and focus groups. The finding shows that Project-based Learning is teaching method creating projects based on problems and student's interest. PBL process improve students' skill in various aspects such as creativity, critical thinking and problem solving, communicating, collaborating, and cross-cultural understanding skills which are essential learning and life skills in the 21st century. Teaching Arts and Dance by using PBL method at the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University can be divided into 3 groups of subjects as follows: 1) Theory and Arts and Dance Skill group 2) Final Project group 3) Foreign Language group. The process of teaching arts and dance by using project-based learning is starting from 1) survey the problem 2) design and define theme of the project 3) planning 4) working on draft-project 5) evaluating and correcting 6) presenting final draft project 7) evaluation and 8) reflection. Project-based learning is a good teaching and learning tool in encouraging teachers and students sharing and exchanging ideas and decreasing the gap between them for making the effective learning in arts and dance in the future.

Keywords— Process of Teaching Arts and Dance, Higher Education, Project based Learning Method

I. INTRODUCTION

Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University is well-known and has a long reputation university. In 1908, King Chulalongkorn (King Rama V of Siam) intended to build this area as a residence for his consorts and royal family. Thus, this place was once originally the royal garden in the Dusit Palace named Suan Sunandha referring to the name of Indra God's Garden in the paradise and the name of King Rama V's favorite and beloved queen – Her Majesty the Queen Sunandha Kumareerattana [1]. However, King Chulalongkorn passed away before the construction of the residence was completed so the unfinished residence had been left to stand derelict. The construction of the Suan Sunandha residence was continued again after King Vajiravudh (King Rama VI, who was the son of King Chulalongkorn) ascended to the throne. King Vajiravudh had thought that the residences in the Grand Palace, where royal family member lived together were cramped and inappropriate to be the residences of the royal family. Therefore, in 1911, King Vajiravudh had an order to build and renew several villas and buildings in the Suan Sunandha garden and made them for being the residences of the Queen Mother, the royal consorts, and concubines of King Chulalongkorn. In 1919, then, the royal family members of King Chulalongkorn were moved into the residences in Suan Sunandha residence, and this place became a place for

training the royal etiquette and manner for the royal young ladies as well as the ladies from the noble families.

In 1932, The Siamese Coup d'état had made a big impact towards the Royal households. A lot of royal members and courtiers resided in Suan Sunandha felt insecure about the situation, consequently, they left the place. Thus, the place was stand derelict again. It was until 1937 in the reign of King Ananda Mahidol (King Rama VIII of Thailand), Suan Sunandha was transferred to be under the responsibility of Thai government. Finally, this place was used as an educational institution of the nation [2]. At beginning, Suan Sunandha was used as a lady school named Sunandha Wittayalai School, then it has been developed and upgraded to Teacher's College name Wittayalai Kru Suan Sunandha. The name of institution was changed again to Rajabhat Suan Sunandha for supporting the educational policy and the growing of educational system of country. Recently, this educational institution names Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.

Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University is an institution providing the higher education in the country under the vision "Smart Archetype University of Society". The mission of the university consists of 4 missions as follows; firstly, to offer education and producing smart and intelligence students, who have high level of

knowledge including with the human responsibility ethic. Secondly, to conduct research, which can contribute the humanity and society sustainable development. Thirdly, to provide academic services and being a part of social development with academic knowledge and creativity. Finally, to conserve arts and culture bases on the concept of “Suan Sunandha Palace Culture”.

At present, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University offers bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctoral degree including the special academic courses. The structure of university consists of 7 Colleges such as College of Innovation and Management, College of Logistic and Supply Chain, College of Nursing and Health, International College, College of Allied Health Science, Suan Sunandha International School of Arts, and College of Architecture. One demonstration school offers the primary and secondary educational levels and 6 Faculties such as Faculty of Education, Faculty of Sciences and Technology, Faculty of Humanity and Social Science, Faculty of Industrial Technology, Faculty of Management Science and Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts [3].

Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University has long history and established for more than 40 years. In 1973, the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts had not been founded. There were only “Music and Dramatic Arts Department” established in the university for offering the diploma major in Thai dramatic arts. In 1999, the university unified the arts disciplines such as music, dramatic arts, and visual arts for making Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University great strength in Fine Arts disciplines and also being a leader university in Thailand in offering higher educational degree in Fine and Applied Arts. Consequently, the faculty of Fine and Applied Arts was officially established in the 1st March 2005. The philosophy of faculty is “Great Artwork, Glorious Virtue, Leading in Arts Academic” under the faculty's vision “Centre of Lifelong Learning in the Careers of Fine and Applied Arts with Quality and Moral”. According to philosophy and vision of faculty, it leads the goal of faculty in producing arts graduates, who are skillful in art area and intelligent person. In addition, the faculty defines the identity of graduates as “Being the Fine Arts Practitioner, Proficient in Fine Arts Academic, Good in Communication, Being Creative Thinker and Having Service Mind [4].

At present, Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University offers the course major in fine arts disciplines in both undergrad and postgraduate degrees. There are 5 fine arts majors consist of Painting Department, Visual Communication Design Department, Music Department, Fashion and Lifestyle Product Department, and Performing Arts Department.

Active Learning is a process of learning management, which emphasized on learning by doing of the learners. The learners learn through practicing, experimenting, and thinking about the process that they created [5]. In addition, the learners will gain knowledge via their own experience and process in their participation so it can be

said learners have to action more than listening. The teaching techniques such as writing, reading is not enough in encouraging learners. Regarding to PBL, teachers have to encourage learners to learn via several activities such as writing, reading, critical thinking, analyzing summarizing and evaluating. Active Learning requires the collaboration between learners and teachers, who are apply themselves to be facilitator. Moreover, Active Learning also helps learners remain their knowledge longer than passive learning style because of learners will remember that interaction and result that they find by themselves. The process of Active Learning begins with learners have a role in researching and finding knowledge by their own via hypothetical situation. Therefore, the learners will have a chance in developing several skills of learners such as critical thinking skill, responsibility, discussing skill, integrating, and applying skill [6].

Project based Learning method or in short PBL is an Active Learning method, in which the process of managing learning by using projects. The project will be set up from a problem or the questions that learner's interests. The problem becomes a background of creating project to resolve or find out the answer of the problems. PBL encourages students to think critically from problems by studying, researching, and solving problems on their own by using other skills that are essential skills in the 21st century.

II. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this research article aim to study the meaning and concept of project-based learning method. In addition, the techniques and process of teaching arts and dance based on project-based learning method will be analyzed

III. RESEARCH METHODS

A. Research Design

This article was conducted by qualitative research method. The data collections were consisting of document study from Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University library and various online resources. The interviews of lecturers of the faculty were arranged, including the observation of learning and teaching process in the faculty. The focus group were arranged. The key informants were 22 lecturers, who were the representative of 5 departments such as Performing Arts Department (major in Thai Dramatic Arts and major in Theatre Arts), Painting Department, Visual Communication Design Department, Music Department (major in Thai music and major in Western music) and Fashion Design Departments from the faculty. The obtain data were analyzed and presented in descriptive format.

B. Research Process

The research process of this article has developed into 5 steps consisted of to determined and analyze concept, which related to research objectives by studying the educational philosophy, missions, and policy of the Faculty of Fine and

Applied Arts, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, including the meeting group was arranged to identify the problems and concept of developing learning and teaching process. In searching of core knowledge, then, about the contemplative education study and the development of learning and teaching process were created by workshop and focus group. The next step was the improvement concepts and guideline and integration of contemplative education study with the learning and teaching process of fine and applied arts in the faculty. Then conduct the experiment in applying the research finding into teaching and learning process of each department. Finally, the summary of the result was created. The research process was shown in Fig. 1.

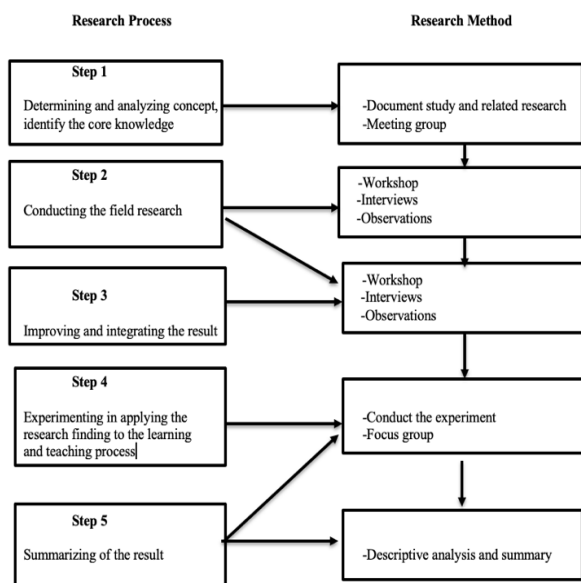


Fig.1 Research process for techniques and process of teaching arts and dance in higher education by project-based learning method

IV. RESULTS

The result show that Project-based learning (PBL) or project-based method is an educational approach designed to give learners the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills through engaging projects set around challenges and problems they are interested. Maggie O'Brien stated that the characteristic of PBL are follows [7]:

1. Interdisciplinary: Project based Learning is an approach in encouraging learners using their own multi skills and knowledge in resolve problems and creating the project. So, there are many skills in several area have been applied in one project.

2. Rigorous: Project based learning requires the knowledge and skills, not just recall or recognition but also strong in knowledge. Learners have to create and design project, so they have to know how to ask effective questions, they have to think critically, and they have to have skill in communication to understand themselves and other.

3. Student-centered: Project based learning is a method that changing the way of learning and teaching. On the one hand, teachers become facilitator, who helps and encourage student finding the result via action. On the other hand, students are the center of learning because they have to think and design what they would like to know by themselves. So, the learning sessions depend on student decisions that what is the best way for them in learning.

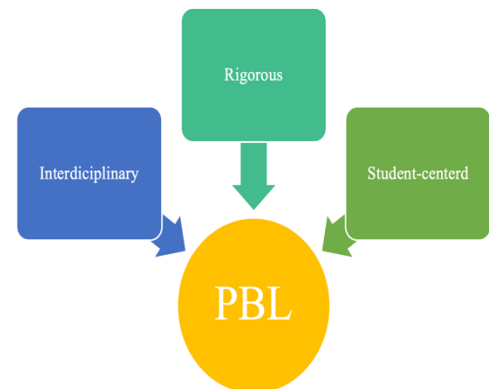


Fig.2. The 3 characteristics of Project based Learning

PBL is one of Active Learning method and its technique is very good and benefit for both learners and teachers in many areas especially learning and teaching in fine arts. PBL method emphasizes on practicing, so the nature of the fine arts discipline and the subject's content, it focuses on practical skills as well. However, PBL requires the changing role of teachers. Teachers should transform themselves as show in Fig.3.

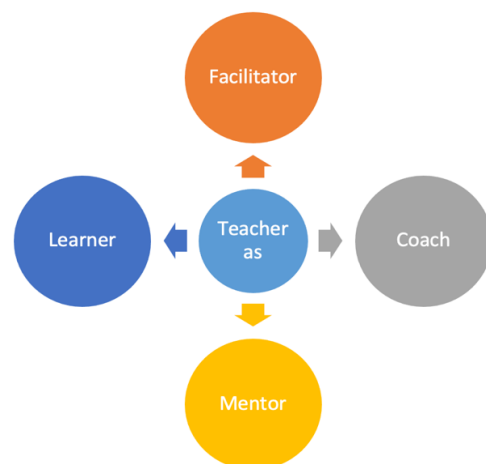


Fig.3. Teacher role in PBL

Generally, learning and teaching by Project based learning method has 5 steps: thinking and defining problems, planning, doing, reporting, and presenting. However, in Thailand, the Office of Education Council under the Ministry of Education, Thailand presents the 4 steps of Project based learning as show in Fig.4.



Fig. 4. The 4 steps of PBL by Office of Education Council, Ministry of Education, Thailand [8]

In addition, Dusadee Yoelao [9] proposed the 6 steps of learning and teaching by PBL as follow:

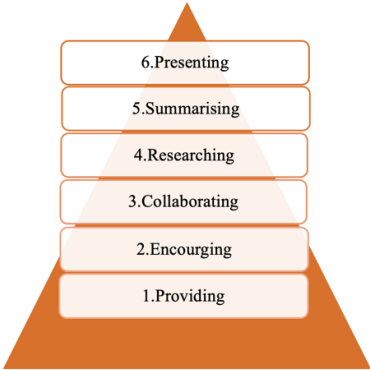


Fig. 5. The 6 steps of Project based learning

Regarding to the steps or process of PBL method, it shows that PBL method can be design in various style depends on the course and learner’s interest. Therefore, the techniques and process of learning and teaching in arts and dance at Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University by using Project based Learning method can be categorized into 3 groups based on the of subjects: theoretical and practical subjects, senior project subject and foreign language subject.

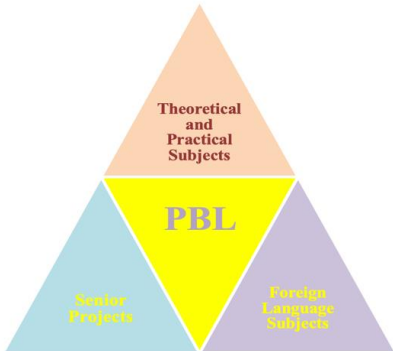


Fig. 6. The 3 groups of subjects using Project based learning method

1.Theoretical and practical subjects: It is a big group of subjects in the curriculum concerning about providing fundamental knowledge of arts and dance for the learners such as Painting 1, Sign and Symbol Design, Fashion 1-5, Performing Arts for Business, Visual Arts for Performing Arts [10]. The important techniques for using PBL method with these subjects is about planning the outcome of knowledge that learners have to know and teachers will teach the basic knowledge before allows learners doing the project.

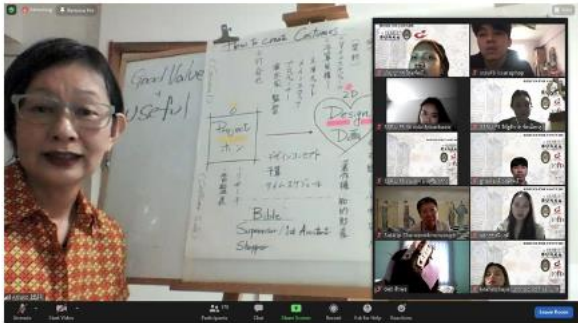


Fig. 7. Learning in theoretical and practical subjects in Fashion and Painting course using PBL method [11]

The process of learning and teaching by Project base learning for the theoretical and practical subjects in arts and dance at Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts consists of 6 steps as follows:

- Preparing is an exploring learner’s interest including learning knowledge from teacher
- Planning is about thinking and designing the topic of project.
- Doing is an action process

- Presenting is a step for presenting the complete project result
- Evaluating is an evaluated the result of project by teacher and learners
- Reflecting is a process of sharing experience between learner and teachers



Fig. 8. The 6 steps of PBL method in theoretical and practical subjects

2.Seniro project subjects: It is an important subject for all learners before they completed degree. The outcome of the senior project is about learners can create artwork based on their expert skill. Arts learners may create senior project by exhibiting their paintings, in contrast, the learners in dance may present creative dance piece. The important techniques for using PBL method with these subjects is about process of deciding and creating artwork based on research [12].

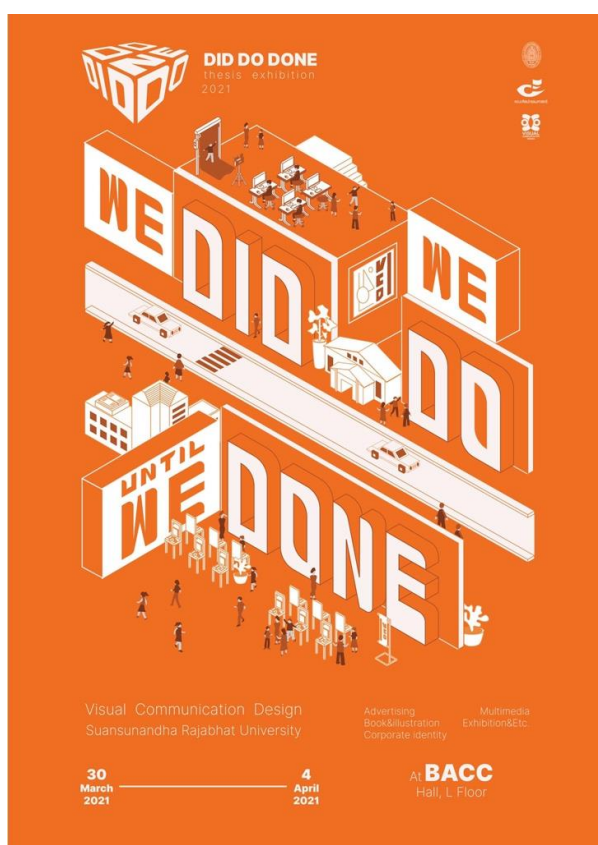


Fig. 9. Poster of Senior Project by Visual Communication Design Department [13]



Fig. 10. Poster of Senior Project by Performing Arts Department [14]

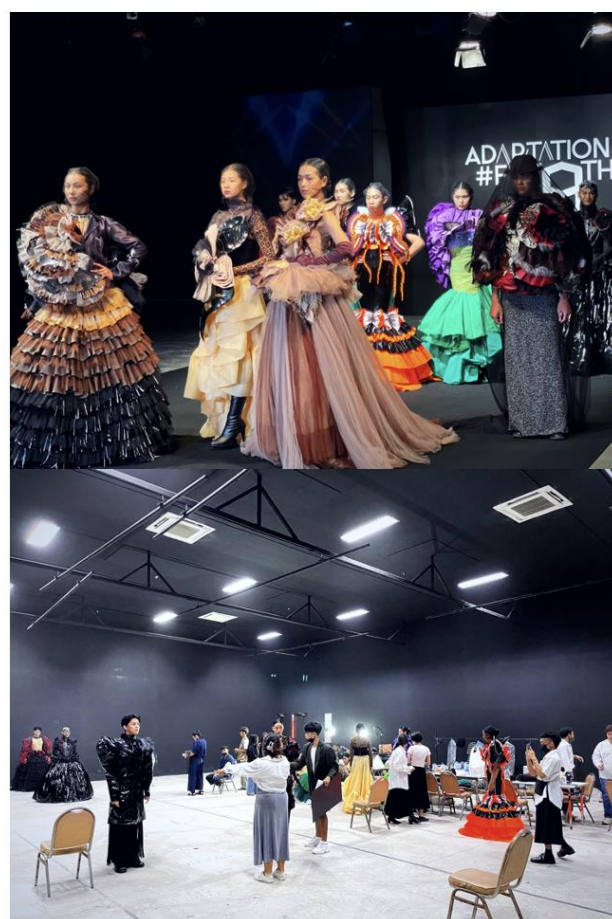


Fig. 11. Pictures of Senior Project by Fashion Department [15]

The process of learning and teaching by Project base learning for the senior project subjects in arts and dance at Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts consists of 7 steps as follows:

- Preparing is an exploring learner's interest including learning knowledge from teacher
- Deciding is about thinking and designing the topic of project.
- Researching is a step for rigorous the information and necessary knowledge
- Creating is an action step. It may be about the design or choreograph artwork.
- Presenting is a step for presenting the complete project result to the examiners.
- Evaluating is an evaluated the result of project by examiner and learner will get the suggestion for improving their artwork.
- Exhibiting is a process of presenting artwork to public.

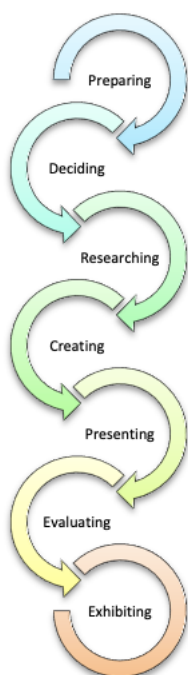


Fig. 12. The 7 steps of PBL method in senior project subjects

3.Foreign language subject: It is a compulsory subject for all arts and dance students at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. However, foreign language in this area is English and it has been taught by foreign teacher. The necessary outcome is arts and dance learners have English skill and can apply and use English language for their career in the future [16].

The process of learning and teaching by Project base learning for the foreign subjects in arts and dance at Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts consists of 5 steps as follows:

- Preparing is an exploring learner's interest including learning knowledge from teacher
- Researching is a step for rigorous the information and necessary knowledge
- Doing is an action process
- Presenting is a step for presenting the complete project result
- Evaluating is an evaluated the result of project by teacher and learners

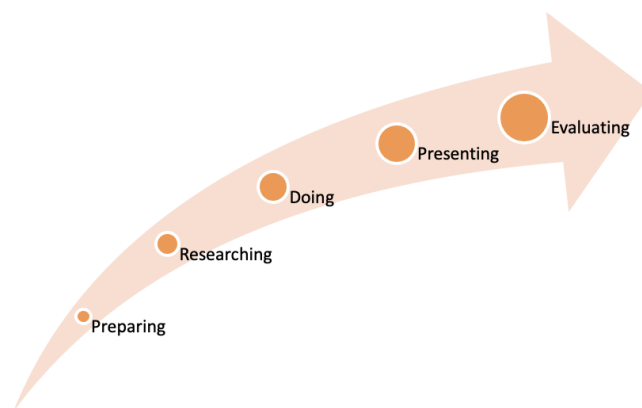


Fig. 13. The 5 steps of PBL method in foreign language subject

Project based Learning, in short PBL is an effective learning and teaching method, which is very useful for teachers and learners at present. It allows teachers applying modern content to the course description and encourage students in learning by doing, which can improve the student's skill for the future.

V. DISCUSSIONS

The result of this study can encourage teachers and learners improve not only themselves but also each other. Project based learning or PBL method is an Active Learning approach, which is suitable for developing 21st century skill of learners. Arts and Dance disciplines are a course for learning aesthetic of the world [17] by doing and creating artwork, which are similar with the concept of learning by doing. PBL, in the same, is making learning by doing project and making learners understanding and resolving the problem by themselves. As the Chinese Confucianism philosophy quotation that I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand [18], so Arts and Dance learning and PBL method are sharing the same concept and improve each other. Additionally, the learning and teaching arts and dance with PBL are seem like a good car get a great petrol. It improves the car performance and bring the driver has great experience and safely on the road.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Recommendations for Practices

Project based learning method or PBL should be used in various subjects and the teaching techniques such as game, music playing and role play should be designed and applying in class.

B. Recommendations for Further Research

The recommendation is Project based learning method is a good topic for the further research especially, the research of applying PBL or the active learning method in other academic area. In addition, the study about the learning result after using PBL method should be examined in the future.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Active Learning is an important learning and teaching method in developing the learners. Project based Learning, in short PBL is one of Active Learning method and its technique is very good and benefit for both learners and teachers in many areas especially learning and teaching in fine arts. PBL method emphasizes on practicing, so the nature of the fine arts discipline and the subject's content, it focuses on practical skills as well. In PBL method, teachers become facilitators who provides suggestions and guidance. Therefore, PBL method is an active learning method which is compatible with arts and dance teaching. The learning and teaching in arts and dance at Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University by using Project based Learning method can be categorized into 3 groups of subjects: theoretical and practical subjects, senior project subject and foreign language subject. Theoretical and practical subjects by PBL method such as Introduction to visual communication design subject, Performing arts for business subject, Acting subject and Drawing subject have 6 steps: preparing, planning, doing, presenting, evaluating and reflecting. Senior project subject, in contrast, there are 7 steps: preparing, deciding, researching, creating, presenting, evaluating, exhibiting. Finally, Foreign language subject has 5 steps: preparing, researching, doing, presenting and evaluating. Project based Learning, in short PBL is an effective learning and teaching method, which is very useful for teachers and learners at present. It allows teachers applying modern content to the course description and encourage students in learning by doing, which can improve the student's skill for the future.

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