30 Creative Activities for Challenge Based Learning

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Click or tap an activity to view the project description.

Challenge Based Learning

These activities for iPad and Mac are designed to help learners of all ages develop better questions, investigate ideas, create and implement solutions throughout the CBL process.

Activities for Engage

1. Mind Map Your Big Ideas

Identify and connect Big Ideas on Freeform.

- Create a shared Freeform board to collaborate with others and brainstorm Big Ideas.
- Organize ideas using shapes, sticky notes, connectors, and more to quickly visualize concepts.

Get started with Freeform for Mac or iPad.

2. Identify Your Big Ideas

Conduct a photo scavenger hunt for Big Ideas.

- Use Camera to capture as many Big Ideas as you can identify in your school or community.
- Create a shared photo album and add your photos.
- Invite your group members to contribute their photos.

Get started with Photos for Mac or iPad.

3. Time a Brainstorming Session

Use the timer to facilitate group ideation.

- Set a timer for your group of learners to generate Big Ideas.
- Create rotations and repeat the process for ideating Essential Questions.

Learn more about Clock for Mac or iPad.

4. Collect Community Recordings

Interview community members and key stakeholders.

- Use Voice Memos to capture and organize recordings.
- Things to consider: What challenges do they face? What Essential Questions are important to them?

Get started with Voice Memos for Mac or iPad.

5. Diagram Your Thinking

Use Apple Pencil and Notes to write down and organize questions.

- Consider questions that begin with "How."
- Draw lines to connect related questions.
- Categorize and sort by themes to help identify the Essential Question.

Learn more about Apple Pencil and Notes for iPad.

6. Launch Your Challenge

Create a short video in Clips sharing your Big Idea, Essential Question, and Challenge statement.

- Add Live Titles to make your message more accessible.
- Use emoji and stickers to emphasize your main points.
- Export and share your final Clips pitch.

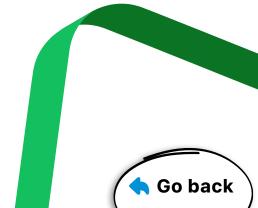**Learn more about creating with Clips for iPad.**

7. Design a Challenge Poster

Create a poster in Pages to promote your Challenge.

- Explore the flyer and poster templates in Pages.
- Use your own photos, words, and design to build interest in your Challenge.
- Export as a PDF to print and share.

Get started with Pages for Mac or iPad.

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Activities for Investigate

8. Develop Guiding Questions

Expand your investigation in Numbers to help build out your thinking.

- Create a Numbers document and add shapes, each containing one Guiding Question.
- Encourage questions that will take you deeper into the Challenge, like "What if?" and "Why?"
- Invite others to contribute by using collaboration features.

Get started with Numbers for Mac or iPad.

9. Connect Face-to-Face

Interview peers, parents, or community members with FaceTime to gather input.

- Summarize your Challenge to share context.
- Seek ideas for additional Guiding Questions you may not have considered.
- Gather, record, and organize the responses for further investigation.

Get started with FaceTime for Mac or iPad.

10. Organize Your Research

Use Tab Groups in Safari to organize Guiding Resources and facilitate research.

- Create a new Tab Group and share it with others for collaborative research.
- Curate a collection of useful websites to help answer your Guiding Questions.

Get started with Safari for Mac or iPad.

11. Take a Virtual Field Trip

For a Guiding Activity, explore new places with Maps.

- Discover locations that relate to your Guiding Questions.
- Investigate Guides for important information connected to your research.
- Use the Look Around feature to view the location at ground level.

Get started with Maps for Mac or iPad.

12. Interview an Expert

Edit interviews in GarageBand to create a podcast.

- Connect with leaders to discuss their perspectives and insights into your Guiding Questions.
- Share the history behind your Challenge.
- Organize your interviews into a podcast format complete with music and sound effects.

Get started with GarageBand for Mac or iPad.

13. Synthesize Your Insights

Organize your findings on a digital whiteboard by building charts and showing data.

- Turn complex data sets into beautiful visual charts that make information easier to understand.
- Complement the data with videos, recorded audio, and images that express your insights.

Get started with Numbers for Mac or iPad.

14. Design an Infographic

Synthesize your investigation by creating an infographic.

- Design an infographic that showcases insights from your Guiding Activities research.
- Use the power of visuals to better articulate and communicate your findings.

Get started with Keynote for Mac or iPad.

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Activities for Act

15. Pitch Your Solution

Present your Solution ideas to a think tank of peers or community members, and seek feedback.

- Organize a pitch deck using a Keynote template.
- Use photos, videos, shapes, and more in your deck.
- Socialize your Solution concept with experts or members of the broader community.
- Ask for critical feedback before putting your Solution into action.

Learn more about presenting with Keynote for Mac or iPad.

16. Build an App Prototype

Produce a working app prototype in Keynote with interactive links.

- Think about how an interactive experience could help your audience better understand your Solution.
- After formulating your research, plan out what information you need to include.
- Consider how using icons, photos, videos, and audio in your design can add to the app experience.

Learn more about app prototyping in Keynote.

17. Present Your Solution

Use presenter mode in Pages to share your Solution with an audience.

- Create your Solution proposal using Pages.
- Present your Solution proposal to an audience.
- Record a video of your speech as a call to action.

Learn more about presenter mode in Pages on iPad.

18. Promote Solutions with Motion Graphics

Present a Solution concept as a motion graphic in Keynote.

- Make your ideas and stories more engaging with motion.
- Visualize hard-to-describe concepts through animation.
- Export and share your motion graphic.

Learn more about creating motion graphics in Keynote.

19. Manage Milestones

Set up a shared calendar to manage milestones and deliverables.

- Attach important documents or resources for the team to a calendar event.
- Invite others to edit and contribute.
- Publish the calendar so anyone can subscribe and stay informed about future activities or the progress of your Challenge.

Get started with Calendar for Mac or iPad.

20. Build an Implementation Plan

Use a project template in Numbers to outline your plan.

- Formulate a plan for your implementation.
- Consider key objectives, roles and responsibilities, budgets, and timelines.

Learn more about templates in Numbers for Mac or iPad.

21. Organize Your Tasks

Keep track of your implementation plan and progress with a shared Reminders list.

- Make sure no task gets left unfinished by sharing a Reminders list with your team.
- When someone adds an item or marks one as complete, the shared list will update for everyone else.
- Use shared reminders to assign tasks and keep track of the Solution's implementation.

Get started with Reminders for Mac or iPad.

22. Record Your Screen

Capture a screen recording with voice narration explaining why your Solution is effective.

- Outline your Solution's impact with a video explanation.
- Mirror your screen using AirPlay, and create a screen recording while presenting to an audience.

Get started with screen recording for Mac or iPad.

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Activities for Document, Reflect, and Share

23. Document with a Learning Journal

Build a learning journal using a book layout template in Pages.

- Document your learning with a journal that features media galleries, audio, and more.
- Organize your thinking, and capture important moments and reflections.

Get started with a journal template in Pages.

24. Document and Share Video Stories

Create a short documentary about your Challenge using iMovie.

- Apply editing effects to convey key messages and persuade your audience.
- Use a Magic Movie template to develop a video compilation of impact stories.
- Use a Storyboard template to share the story of your Challenge.

Learn how to create video stories with iMovie for Mac or iPad.

25. Reflect with Photo Memories

Set up shared albums in Photos to capture and organize images of the CBL process.

- Create memories of your Challenge using photos and videos collected throughout the process.
- Share the memories as a reflection of your learning journey.

Learn more about Memories in Photos for Mac or iPad.

26. Reflect with Media

Use Freeform as a digital whiteboard to curate your media throughout the Challenge.

- On a Freeform board, organize various types of media from your Challenge.
- Add drawings to illustrate your personal reflections on the results.
- Collaborate on your board if you're working in a team.

Learn more about Freeform for Mac or iPad.

27. Record Video Reflections

Use Photo Booth on Mac or video recording with Camera on iPad to capture video reflections.

- Create a list of prompts to guide your reflections.
- Designate a space as a reflection booth.
- Make sure you use the reflection booth periodically throughout the Challenge.

Learn more about Photo Booth for Mac or video recording for iPad.

28. Build an Audio Journal

Use Voice Memos to capture observations throughout your Challenge as an audio journal.

- Record your thoughts about growth in mindsets, behaviors, and strategies.
- Store the recordings in Voice Memos, and review them for final reflections.

Get started with Voice Memos for Mac or iPad.

29. Share Your CBL Story with a Podcast

Create a podcast or radio show using GarageBand.

- As a team, share stories about the findings of your work.
- Record interviews with special guests and experts to feature as highlights.
- Make a call to action for listeners to get involved.

Learn more about podcasting with GarageBand.

30. Publish Your CBL Story as a Digital Book

Use a book template in Pages to share the story of your Challenge.

- Create a digital book that outlines the process and tells the story of your Challenge and Solution.
- Share your story by exporting it as an EPUB book or publishing it to Apple Books.

Learn more about publishing to Apple Books.

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