

## The Six A's of Project-Based Learning Checklist\*

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### **Authenticity**

Does the project stem from a problem or question that is meaningful to the student?  
Is the project similar to one undertaken by an adult in the community or workplace?  
Does the project give the student the opportunity to produce something that has value or meaning to the student beyond the school setting?

### **Academic Rigor**

Does the project enable the student to acquire and apply knowledge central to one or more discipline areas?  
Does the project challenge the student to use methods of inquiry from one or more disciplines (e.g., to think like a scientist)?  
Does the student develop higher order thinking skills (e.g., searching for evidence, using different perspectives)?

### **Applied Learning**

Does the student solve a problem that is grounded in real life and/or work (e.g., design a project, organize an event)?  
Does the student need to acquire and use skills expected in high-performance work environments (e.g., teamwork, problem solving, communication, or technology)?  
Does the project require the student to develop organizational and self-management skills?

### **Active Exploration**

Does the student spend significant amounts of time doing work in the field, outside school?  
Does the project require the student to engage in real investigative work, using a variety of methods, media, and sources?  
Is the student expected to explain what he/she learned through a presentation or performance?

### **Adult Relationships**

Does the student meet and observe adults with relevant experience and expertise?  
Is the student able to work closely with at least one adult?  
Do adults and the student collaborate on the design and assessment of the project?

### **Assessment Practices**

Does the student reflect regularly on his/her learning, using clear project criteria that he/she has helped to set?  
Do adults from outside the community help the student develop a sense of the real world standards from this type of work?  
Is the student's work regularly assessed through a variety of methods, including portfolios and exhibitions?