

Project based final exam  
vs.  
Traditional final exam

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# Agenda

- Why? Reasoning
- How?
- Discovery
- Findings
- Conclusion



## Reasons for this project

- a) I am always looking for improvement in teaching and learning
- b) Comment from Jim Wright

“Tina, try giving a project based final exam instead of traditional final exam.”




- c) Implemented a project based final exam for my 102A & 102B classes Spring 2006


## Guidelines/requirements for implementation.

- Prepare the curriculum and the course syllabus to a project based final exam.
- Assign quizzes, exams, homework covered in the course just skip the traditional final exam instead assign a project such as case study, critical thinking assignment for the final exam.
- About 2-3 weeks before the final exam have your students work on the project.
















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- A vertical column of ten white squares of varying sizes is positioned on the left side of the slide. The squares are arranged in a roughly descending order from top to bottom, with some squares being significantly larger than others. The background is a solid dark blue color.
- Assign a project to each group related to the topic covered in the course. Topic should be assigned by the instructor.
  - Assign collaborative learning groups (2-6 students) per group. The group assigned according to the goal, the activity, and the length of time students will work together on the project.

- Project due date must be the same as regular final exams schedule listed on OHLONE COLLEGE class schedule.
- Prepare a Data sheet that can distribute with the syllabus to elicit demographic characteristics, skills, or academic information such as major, expertise in technology, and job related experience. I used this information to form a group in class.

Rubrics for each group. List a criteria for the delivering the project so, students know how their project will be evaluated. Peer evaluation will be highly recommended.

- Assign roles to group members to encourage student's participation. Members in group must distribute the task among themselves equally. Instructor should monitor responsibilities in each team to make sure members in each team are working equally on the project.

Curriculum Organizer	Learning Outcomes	Teacher Resources	Student Activities
Life Science: Body Systems <a href="#">Respiratory System WebQuest</a> 	•Describe the basic structure and function of the organs in the respiratory system	• <a href="#">Evaluation Rubric</a> • <a href="#">Teacher Page</a> • <a href="#">A Look Inside the Human Body Web site</a> • <a href="#">Worksheet</a>	• <a href="#">Respiratory System web page</a> • <a href="#">Label the respiratory System</a> • <a href="#">Label the Alveoli</a> • <a href="#">Worksheet</a>



9) Assign a recorder for each group to record the assigned activities for students.








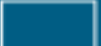






10) Group members are required to present their project in class on the final exam day.

# Discovery/Findings

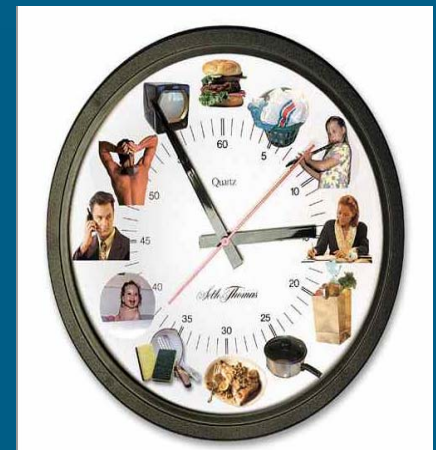



## Why project-based final exam worked over well traditional final exam?

- **Built motivation among students.** Creates excitement, passion and hobby into dynamic learning experiences.
- **Skills for life.** Students will be able to examine their actions, they learn how to interact with each other, they learn what it takes to be successful in real world.


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- **Critical thinking and problem solving technique.** Project based final exam will help students in analyzing, brainstorming, and creating solutions for different type of problem
  - **Effective learning environment.** Creates a learning environment where students are encouraged to explores various topic of interest in class and share their thought with other students.
  - **Leadership and ownership skills.** Project based final exam gives students a sense of ownership and

- **Control** over their own learning, they have opportunity to identify related topics and explore them in a project based scenario.
- **Time management skills.** The deadline for the project builds in opportunities for students to plan, revise and reflect on their learning on a given time frame.




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- **Developing real world skills.** Students learn how to establish a connection to life outside the classroom, addressing real world concerns and they are able to apply theories in to realities.
  - **Self evaluation, planning, and communication skills.** Project that has deadline and complexity will challenge students and motivate them towards on constructions knowledge and proper planning strategies.

Benefits and outcome on project based final exam for my discipline (economics)















Based on student's survey  and my own observations I found:

1. Project based final exam provides much higher learning outcome than traditional final exam.
2. The learning activities were more long-term affect than just memorizing formulas or theories without knowing how to apply theories in real world scenario.



3. Created a motivation among students by engaging them in their own learning

4. Provide opportunities for students to pursue their own interests on special topic or project



5. Students learned how to communicate with each other, make thoughtful decisions, and work collaboratively with their team

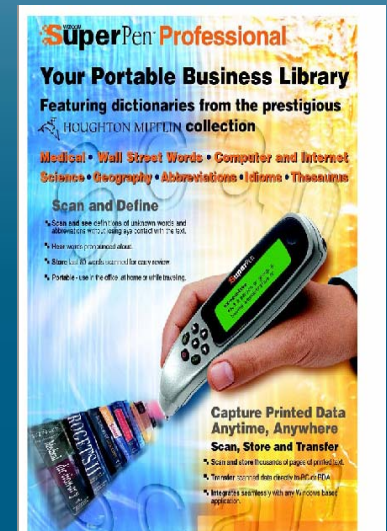
6. Maximize student decision-making and initiative throughout the course of the project—from design, production, and presentation decisions

- 7. Final exam grades were much higher than last year in my 102A & 102B courses.



# Future Technology-coming our way

- New technology being used
  - E-portfolios
- Standards being adopted
  - We can be #1
- Standards specifically being ignored
  - Learning curves...we can do it!



# Faculty "Team" Resources

- People can share ideas!
- Equipment can be shared!
- Locations-save on classroom rent time
- Support & outside services
- Sales-students love it...





Summary

*I encourage faculty to implement project based final exams however, not all disciplines work the same.*

*So, I strongly recommend you create your own set of guidelines and customize your curriculum based on your class size, discipline, and student population etc.*

- That's all folks... bye now



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Final exams-traditional? So last year!