



When should I
use all of the
resources within
the PBL Project?

The key words
are:



flexibility
&
options

THE OPTIONS

If you're thinking: *"I'm swamped... the only way I can incorporate Problem-Based Learning into my lessons is if it only takes a few minutes, and fits in exactly with what I'm teaching that day."*

Your Best Option:

Use the "search by standard" link, and **select specific PBL Thinking exercises by topic.** Each one focus on a narrow topic, and can be put into use quickly.



THE OPTIONS

If you're thinking: "I would love to do some of the Problem-Based scenarios in my classroom, but I don't think we have the time or organization to 'integrate' as a team to involve all core subjects."

Your Best Option:

Choose any of the PBL Integrated Scenarios, and work with your specific subject area. Each subject stands alone, and does not need to be coordinated with the others in order to be completed.

****Language Arts has the added flexibility of choosing with any subject and working with those informational texts*

The screenshot shows a PBL scenario titled "Alarm System". Below the title is a section "The Problem" which states: "The school is considering a new 'Emergency System' to alert students and people in the surrounding area in case...". Below this is a table with three columns: Math, Science, and Social Studies. Each column contains specific tasks for students to complete.

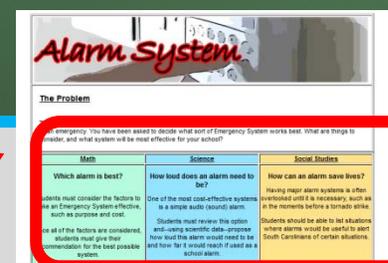
Math	Science	Social Studies
Which alarm is best? Students must consider the factors to make an Emergency System effective, both in purpose and cost. Once all of the factors are considered, students must give their recommendation for the best possible system.	How best does an alarm need to "speak"? One of the most cost-effective systems is a simple audio (sound) alarm. Students must review this option and, using scientific data, propose how best the alarm would need to be used for a school alarm.	How can an alarm save lives? Having major alarm systems is often overlooked and is necessary, such as in the moments before a tornado strike. Students should be able to list situations where alarms would be used to alert South Carolinians of certain situations.

THE OPTIONS

If you're thinking: "We have a team of teachers who love to integrate, and we're ready to tackle Problem-Based Learning across all core subjects."

Your Best Option:

Choose any of the PBL Integrated Scenarios, which each teacher doing their specific section. You can decide whether to do the entire "product" in a class, or (if time is short) just limit the activities to reviewing the stimulus and classroom discussion.



The Problem

You have been asked to decide what sort of Emergency System works best. What are things to consider, and what system will be most effective for your school?

Math	Science	Social Studies
Which alarm is best? Students must consider the factors to make an Emergency System effective, both in purpose and cost. Use all of the factors are considered, students must give their recommendations for the best possible system.	How loud does an alarm need to be? One of the most cost-effective systems is a simple audio (sound) alarm. Students must review this option and, using scientific data, propose how loud the alarm would need to be and how far it would reach if used as a school alarm.	How can an alarm save lives? Having major alarm systems is often overlooked and is necessary, such as at the moments before a tornado strike. Students should be able to list situations where alarms would be used to alert South Carolinians of certain situations.

****In this scenario, Language Arts is the "hub" where students bring their knowledge to present one final answer based on all of the evidence.*

THE OPTIONS

If you're thinking: *"I definitely want to incorporate Problem-Based Learning, but we need to start small... maybe an hour or two per unit."*

Your Best Option:

Choose any PBL Integrated Scenarios that fits your unit, and have students give an **"Extended Response"** rather than the **Product Options**. These are not as time-consuming, but are still great practice for problem-based learning.

Step ③

Student Response

***students should have access to their notes as they enter their answers

***students may also have access to the Stimulus Items as they enter their answers

Product Option: Divide your students into small groups. A couple of members of each group take on the role of "Alarm System Salesmen." The others become potential customers. The salesmen must try to sell different alarm systems (using the infographic provided) giving their opinion of which system will be best for the school. The potential customers must ask key questions regarding the price, purpose, and coverage area of each system.

Extended Response: Have students answer the following questions using the online assessment system. Remind students to use information from the Stimulus Items to support their response.

- 1) Based on the details and cost of the different alarm systems, what is the best way to notify everyone at your school during an emergency? Support your answer with details regarding cost and placement and arrangement of your school

THE OPTIONS

If you're thinking: "I definitely want to incorporate Problem-Based Learning, and use it as an opportunity for students to really challenge themselves."

Your Best Option:

Choose any PBL Integrated Scenarios that fits your unit, and have students do the **Product Option**. This takes longer, but really "stretches the thinking muscle."

Step ③
Student Response

**students should have access to their notes as they enter their answers

**students may also have access to the Stimulus Items as they enter their answers

Product Option: Divide your students into small groups. A couple of members of each group take on the role of "Alarm System Salesmen." The others become potential customers. The salesmen must try to sell different alarm systems (using the infographic provided) giving their opinion of which system will be best for the school. The potential customers must ask key questions regarding the price, purpose, and coverage area of each system.

Use the online assessment system. Remind students to use information from the Stimulus Items to support their response.

1) Based on the details and cost of the different alarm systems, what is the best way to notify everyone at your school during an emergency? Support your answer with details regarding cost and placement and arrangement of your school

THE OPTIONS

If you're thinking: *"I want to introduce students to Problem-Based Learning, but I think it needs to be fun. Trying to make it part of a daily lesson will sour students of the whole process."*

Your Best Option:

Find a **"Weekly Warm-up"** with a topic you like, and use it with the class. This may take a half hour or so (if you limit it to stimulus review and classroom discussion), or several classes (if you do the entire Product option).

