



INSTRUCTOR: MS. WIMBERLY

COURSE: BIOLOGY HONORS



PROJECT SUMMARY



- In this PBL, students take on the role of farmers applying for a grant to implement sustainable practices that will make their farm operations more environmentally friendly and economically viable. Each student or group selects one of 15 fictional North Carolina farms, each with its own unique type, size, and set of challenges. After analyzing their chosen farm's needs, students research and select a sustainable solution from a provided list. They then complete a realistic grant application that includes a project summary, farm background, proposed solution, budget estimate, and anticipated impact. The final product is a written grant proposal designed to persuade a funding committee to support their sustainability project.



DRIVING QUESTION

- How can sustainable farming practices contribute to a greener and more resilient future for farms?



SUSTAINED INQUIRY & AUTHENTICITY

- This PBL is applicable to the real-world because grant writing is a skill used by professionals to fund meaningful projects. Students apply their science knowledge to solve problems and create realistic proposals. Their final product, a grant application, shows they can research, think critically, collaborate, plan solutions, and communicate ideas just like in real careers



STUDENT VOICE & CHOICE WITH PUBLIC PRODUCTS

- Students will present their grant projects to the class in addition to a local farmer and a local county Extension Agent.



TEACHER REFLECTION

- This project went incredibly well! Students were open-minded and fully engaged in exploring a topic that was unfamiliar to most of them. They were surprised to learn about the complex challenges farmers face and gained a deeper appreciation for how costly and risky it is to farm sustainably. If I were to do this project again, I would build in more time for an authentic peer review process before final presentations.



STUDENT REFLECTIONS

- "I learned how to write and propose a professional grant, collaborate with others, and it really opened my eyes to the challenges the farming community faces."
- "I have become more comfortable with requesting funding and also presenting them publicly."



NOTED SKILLS GAINED

- PERSUASIVE WRITING
- PUBLIC SPEAKING
- EDITING
- RESEARCHING

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