

Activity-Based Learning: Expert Visits ©



Summary: Activity-based learning (ABL) engages students intellectually, practically, and personally to acquire knowledge and skills from the curriculum. Active learning helps students understand their lessons better. It yields better retention, and it equips them to apply what they learn to practical tasks. Arguably most importantly, ABL gives students the skills to plan and undertake their own learning. It stimulates their curiosity to formulate questions. It orients them to the local context to know where to find answers and corrals their discipline to plan steps to acquire these. It nurtures their confidence to engage directly with those who can satisfy their curiosity. Learning that there are “teachers” all around them is vital to students’ learning now and lifelong. Bringing experts to the classroom or the classroom to the experts is, therefore, an enormously valuable pedagogic strategy.

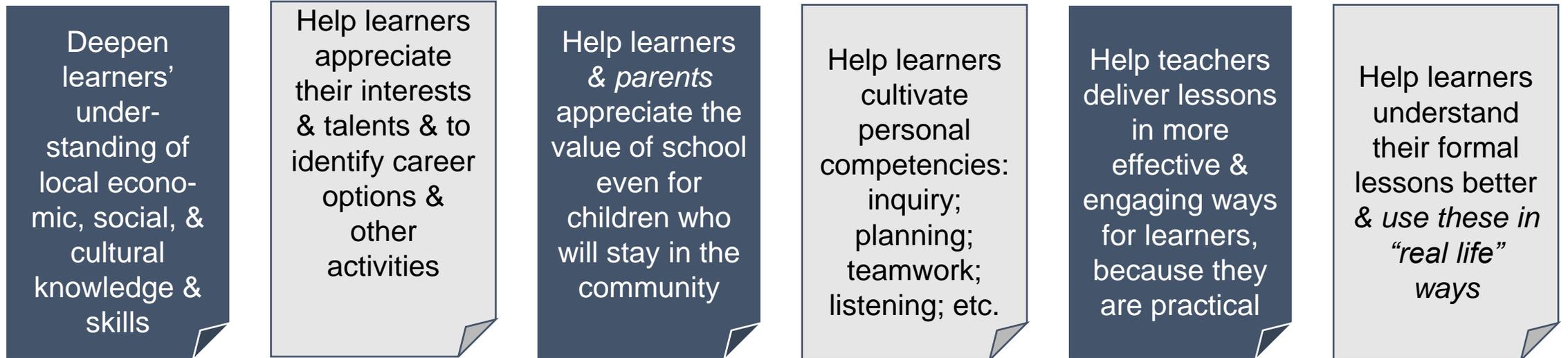


Organizing student interactions with local experts

Main Steps



Key Benefits



Sample Questions (1)

Motivation/Passion

- ❖ Why did you choose to do this?
- ❖ What do you like about what you do?
- ❖ What is hard or unpleasant?
- ❖ Do you recommend it to us as a future activity?

Education/Training

- ❖ How did you learn it?
- ❖ Where did you learn?
- ❖ How long did it take to learn?
- ❖ What level of schooling did you reach, and how does what you learned in school help you in this activity?

Economics

- ❖ How much do the tools, equipment, materials and other inputs cost?
- ❖ Where do you sell what you produce or the services you provide?
- ❖ How do you get the products there?
- ❖ How much does transportation cost?
- ❖ How much do your products cost?

Technical

- ❖ What are the different things you produce or activities you do?
- ❖ What steps/techniques do you use and how long do the steps take?
- ❖ What tools and equipment do you use and where do you get them?
- ❖ What materials do you use, how much of each, and where do you get them?
- ❖ What other inputs do you use and where do you get them?
- ❖ Please show us.

Sample Questions (2)

Challenges

- ❖ What makes the activity challenging (technically, economically, and socially)?
- ❖ How does the expert manage these challenges—problem-solving?

Interactions

- ❖ How do you get your tools, equipment, materials, and other inputs?
- ❖ How do you get products to market?
- ❖ What regulations must you follow?
- ❖ With what government offices or other organizations do you connect? Why?

Social Significance

- ❖ Why is the activity important to a family, the community, the region; the nation—economically, socially, personally, and culturally?
- ❖ How are things different now than when my parents or grandparents were young?

Looking Ahead

- ❖ What would you like to do in the future to grow your activity?
- ❖ What would you advise we do if we wanted to work in this area of expertise?