Projects versus Project Based Learning

Projects		Project Based Learning
At the end of a unit; after the "real" learning has already occurred	When	During the unit; how students learn
Can be done at home, individually	Teacher Guidance	Must be done in collaboration with the teacher and other students in class; requires teamwork
Can be outlined in detail with specific requirements, products will all be the same	Requirements	Necessitates essential questions from teachers and students, which evolve over time; the end result will be different products
Requires a certain product; based upon directions	Focus	Designed around skills and processes, based on driving questions
Repeated year after year	Use	Timely and complex, planned and implemented for a specific group of students
The majority of teacher work is grading after the project	Teacher Work	The majority of teacher work is preparation for the PBL
Not many opportunities to make choices	Student Choice	Students make most of the choices during the project (within pre-approved guidelines)
Projects are closed, and they all have the same goal	Goals	Students make choices that determine the outcomes and path of research
Cannot be used outside school	Problem-Solving	Could provide solutions to real problems outside school (even though they may not be implemented)
Not connected to other subjects or students' interests	Relevance	Applicable to students' lives or students' future lives (memorable)
Based on a tool for the sake of the tool ("Make a Prezi!")	Technology	Utilizes technology, tools, and research practices purposely
Submitted to the teacher	Evaluation	Presented in a public forum
"The dessert"		*"The Main Course"*

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