

# **Working with Projects in the STARTALK Portuguese through STEM and Project-Based Learning**

Eduardo Viana da Silva, Ph.D.  
Portuguese Program Coordinator  
University of Washington

# ELECTIVE PROJECTS

- **GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)**

It is a technology used to:

- Manage, organize, and manipulate spatial data
- Perform spatial investigation
- Visualize spatial data



# ELECTIVE PROJECTS

- **DIGITAL STORYTELLING**

It is the social and cultural activity of telling stories. Students:

- Choose a topic of interest
- Gather and select materials
- Prepare a script
- Discuss the scenes, act
- Edit the video



# LESSONS LEARNED IN PBL

- Give students the freedom to choose a topic of interest for the group.
- Encourage students to establish their roles from the beginning of the project.
- Adjust the pace of the project as needed.
- Provide constructive feedback from instructors, peers, and professionals (presentation practice).



# CHALLENGES - HLLs

- Different levels of proficiency
  - Be sure to use flexible grouping
- Diverging opinions within the group
  - Develop strategies with students to come to a consensus (class rules).
- Students not completing their tasks or losing motivation.
  - Provide constant feedback, extra time as needed, and a positive learning environment
  - Have an audience for students to present their projects



# STRATEGIES FOR PBL IN HL CLASSES

- Provide enough time for students to bond.
- Familiarize students with the Global Competency Matrix.
- Promote a collaborative and positive atmosphere (more collaboration, less competition).
- Take advantage of the individual strengths in each group.
- Support self-direct learning as well.



# Thank you! Obrigado! ¡Gracias!

Eduardo Viana da Silva

- Contact:  
[evsilva@uw.edu](mailto:evsilva@uw.edu)

