

Sample Activities I
Subject-Based Learning vs. Problem-Based Learning

Subject-Based Learning Activity	Problem-Based Learning Activity
<p>You are teaching a unit in human anatomy on the ligaments of the knee. To test your students' knowledge, you give a labeling exam.</p>	<p>Show a video clip where an athlete gets injured and ask questions related to the force, direction, what ligaments would be involved, etc.</p>
<p>You are teaching a unit in history on Martin Luther King, Jr. To assess your students' understanding, you assign an essay on civil rights.</p>	<p>Interview people/groups that involve/work with civil rights issues and talk to them about the impact on their lives; present a historical problem and ask the impact of then and now; ask students why is MLK Day is a national holiday; what made the message important at that time and now; compare MLK, Jr. with President Obama.</p>
<p>You are teaching a unit in your writing class on poetry. To evaluate your students' understanding, you give a quiz on the various forms of poetry.</p>	<p>Present students with a similar theme and have them write a poem in a specific format or style; what form is most effective and why.</p>
<p>You are teaching a unit in physics on levers. To test your students' knowledge, you give a lab worksheet focusing on types of levers and forces.</p>	<p>Use simple objects to build levers; propose a problem with various simple items (ruler, etc.); give students a scenario that involves a large stone that must be carried across the street with only one person to help...how can you do this?</p>
<p>You are teaching a unit in an elementary education class on policy. To evaluate your students' understanding, you stage a class debate on policy in public schools.</p>	<p>Present students with a scenario where a policy or rule was broken by a student...what kinds of rules were broken and why is this rule important in public schools?</p>