



Virtual Exhibitions of Learning

Make meaningful connections by providing students with an audience for their work. Curate video and student work digitally to engage with families and community members.

Why do it?

Exhibitions of student learning promote...

- **High Quality Work for Authentic Audiences.** When students know they will share their work with an audience beyond the classroom, they are motivated to make it high quality. The best exhibitions showcase work that has required students to think critically, problem solve, and revise through multiple drafts. Exhibitions are a great way to share student writing, art work, performances, debates, experiments, engineering projects, mock trials, podcasts, or videos.
- **Community Pride & Transparency.** Exhibitions put students center stage as they describe the process and products of their learning. Like a sports event or performance, they bring families and community members together to celebrate the collective work of a class, a team, a school. But with exhibitions, the community is taking pride in students' academic learning.
- **Equity.** Exhibitions set the expectation that all students, not just a select group, are capable of producing high-quality work and will share that work with people beyond their classroom. They motivate all students to do their best, so they can stand proudly beside their work.

Get Prepared: What to do before exhibition?

Reflect with your students. Help your students prepare to engage in a discussion about their work by having them reflect on their learning. The following prompts can be helpful questions for students to practice:

- What was the step-by-step process to create this work?
- What did you learn?
- What new skills did you develop?
- What were some challenges?
- What was your favorite part of this learning experience?
- What advice would you give to others who want to do this?

Digitally curate the learning students will share. Have students display their work and share their learning on a digital platform such as [Seesaw](#), [Flipgrid](#), [Student Corner](#), a class website (you can use [Wix](#) or [Weebly](#)), or a video (larger files can be shared using [Google Drive](#)). Students can take pictures or video of the final products, as well as artifacts that highlight the learning process such as drafts or prototypes. They can also write reflections and/or record audio or video of themselves to accompany their artifacts.

*Remember to follow your district policy regarding student privacy when posting pictures and video of students and student work.

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Decide on a presentation format. Will students present individually, in a small group, or in a whole group? Will they be recording video of their presentations, or presenting live on a conference call? Prepare students for this presentation format ahead of time. Students may need to script out and/or rehearse presentations before filming them or presenting live on a digital platform.

Decide on a platform for your exhibition presentations. Zoom, Google Hangout, Facebook Live, Instagram Live, Flipgrid, and Seesaw all have different relative advantages.

- For individual presentations or small groups, you can use Zoom, Google Hangout, Flipgrid and Seesaw, and invite a small group of parents/community members to listen to the presentation and participate in a Q & A.
- For a whole class presentation to a larger audience, you can schedule a Zoom, Facebook Live, or Instagram Live meeting. These platforms will allow your audience to respond in real time using the chat box, and students can respond to questions and comments in real time as well.
- For an asynchronous exhibition, you can use a digital portfolio, such as Flipgrid, Seesaw, or a website. Invite the audience to view before a certain time and respond on the platform or via a Google Form.

Invite your audience. Pick a date and time for your exhibition and share it with your community. Invite families, students, colleagues, and community members to participate in the celebration.

Share Your Learning: What to do on exhibition day?

Create a space for students to share their learning. Whether it's pre-recorded or live, have students discuss their work and learning experience with audience members. Pre-recorded video presentations or live presentations can be shared with the larger community through Facebook Live or a platform of your choice that allows students to present and engage in Q&A in real time. Alternatively, pre-recorded video presentations can be sent out to caregivers and community ahead of time, then you can schedule a live Q&A session. Help community members engage by providing them with sample questions to ask, and/or a guide to walk them through the experience.

Use screen sharing to give audience access to student work. During the presentations, students can use screen sharing to share the artifacts on class website or digital portfolio. Whether you have each student create a digital page to curate and showcase their work prior to the exhibition, or create one page with all students' work, make sure that the artifacts that students have created take center stage.

Press record. In the event that caregivers and the community cannot attend the virtual exhibition in real time, you and/or your students can record the exhibition. Send families links with access to all of the exhibition recordings. You can password protect this so only caregivers can have access.

Ensure that each presentation has an audience. If it's an individual project, assign certain caregiver groups to a certain number of presentations. If students pre-record their presentations, you can email the videos and include links to photos of artifacts. If it's a group presentation, have students present from Zoom and utilize the breakout room feature so that each project is presented in a different room.

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Request audience feedback. Make sure to include a way for the audience to leave thoughtful feedback by including a comments section, a survey link, or class email address.

Reflect: Process Your Exhibition Experience

Include reflection time. Provide time for students to debrief the experience:

- [SYL Exhibition Reflection Survey](#)
- Virtual class share-out/discussion
- Journal prompt - How did it feel to share your learning with our community?
- Pair-share with a peer on the above question through an email exchange and cc your teacher

Tips & Tricks

Learn from professionals. Help students see how work is presented in the “real world.” Galleries have Q&A sessions with artists or filmmakers, scientists present findings at conferences, writers publish their work. Each profession offers examples for how to bring meaningful work to an authentic audience. Below are some examples of virtual galleries.

Help students reflect, not describe. Without an opportunity to prepare and discuss their learning in advance, students may default to describing the steps they took to complete the work instead of talking about their learning. Prior to exhibition, provide time to help students identify what they *now know* and *can do*, as opposed to listing the tasks they completed.

Don't wait! Exhibitions are a great opportunity to bring the community together and build pride for students' work, before the end of the year.

Resources

- PBL Works: [Beyond Worksheet Packet: PBL Projects to Adapt for Remote Learning](#)
- PBL Works: [School Closures? Using PBL in Remote Learning](#)
- [Student Corner](#)
- [ArtSteps Virtual Gallery](#)
- [SYL Online course](#) on LearnNext
- EL Education's [Model of Excellence Exhibits](#)
- [The MET online exhibits](#)
- [Guggenheim online exhibits](#)
- [National Museum of Mathematics online exhibits](#)
- [American Museum of Natural History virtual tour](#)

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