



Central Vermont Big Picture Academy of Rochester High School

Five A's of Designing Great Projects

These questions will help you think about what projects would be best suited to an LTI experience.

AUTHENTICITY

- ❖ Does the project emanate from a problem or question that has meaning to the student?
- ❖ Is it a problem or question that might actually be tackled by an adult at work or in the community?
- ❖ Do students create or produce something that has personal or social value, beyond the school setting?

ACADEMIC RIGOR

- ❖ Does the project lead students to acquire and apply knowledge central to one or more learning goal area?
- ❖ Does it challenge students to use methods of inquiry central to one or more disciplines (e.g., think like a scientist)?
- ❖ Do students develop higher order thinking skills (searching or evidence, taking different perspectives, etc. ?)

ACTIVE EXPLORATION

- ❖ Do students spend significant amounts of time doing field-based work?
- ❖ Does the project require students to engage in real investigation, using a variety of methods, media, and sources?
- ❖ Are students expected to communicate what they are learning through presentations?
- ❖ Does the work require students to develop organizational skills and self-management skills?

ADULT CONNECTIONS

- ❖ Do students have opportunities to meet and observe adults with relevant expertise and experience?
- ❖ Does the work of adults become more visible to students?

- ❖ Do adults from outside the classroom help students develop a sense of the real-world standards for this type of work?

ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

- ❖ Do students have opportunities to review models of similar work products?
- ❖ Are there clear milestones or products at the completion of each distinct phase of the work, culminating in an exhibition, portfolio, or presentation?
- ❖ Do students receive timely feedback on their works in progress and engage in periodic, structured self-assessment using clear project criteria that they have helped to set?

(Big Picture Mentor Guide)