

Title: Oral Histories as a PBL Approach for Teaching Heritage Students
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Abstract:

A project-based curriculum is characterized by several essential elements, which include some kind of real-life challenge or problem that needs to be solved, active inquiry on the part of the students' to gain new knowledge, interdisciplinary final product requirement, and feedback and reflection on the learning process. In this regard PBL is related to the notion of Experiential Learning (EL) which encourages students to reflect on their learning as they are developing new knowledge and skills. This presentation will illustrate how PBL and EL can be a highly effective method for working with heritage language students. The presentation will describe a successfully implemented EL course for Russian heritage students at Brandeis University and will engage attendees in brainstorming for other PBL/EL ideas.