Challenge Based Learning & Habits of Mind

Challenge Based Learning (CBL) provides an efficient and effective framework for learning while solving real-world Challenges. Habits of Mind represent key attributes exhibited by successful and intelligent problem solvers. The CBL framework elicits,

- **Responding with wonderment and awe**
  In CBL the goal is not to find the one correct answer but to participate in an awesome adventure to deeply explore and understand that the world is amazing and mysterious.

- **Apply past knowledge to new situations**
  The CBL framework provides scaffolding for learners to access prior knowledge, and transfer the lessons learned to new situations.

- **Thinking about your thinking**
  The CBL framework places a premium on reflection. Through reflection, all of the learners become aware of their thought patterns and develop personal frameworks for thinking.

- **Listening with understanding and empathy**
  Throughout the CBL framework, the learners work in teams and gain an understanding and empathy for the unique audience of their challenge.

- **Remaining open to continuous learning**
  A fundamental concept within CBL learning is embracing that we do not have all of the answers, but together we can find them. The framework gives us a structure to approach all challenges through a lens of continuous learning.

- **Thinking flexibly**
  The iterative nature of CBL requires learners to explore ideas from multiple angles, consider new ways of thinking and generate alternative approaches.

- **Creating, imagining, and innovating**
  In CBL the learners own the experience and have ongoing opportunities to create, imagine and innovate. The Act phase focuses these skills on an actionable solution (product, service, process). CBL includes the entire innovation cycle.

- **Finding humor**
  Because Challenges are designed by the learners, the results will be incongruous and unexpected. Learning how to have humility and see humor is critical to the experience.

- **Taking responsible risks**
  Built into CBL is the idea of Boundaries of Adventure where throughout the process the learners are encouraged to take responsible risks, fail or succeed, learn and move forward.

- **Striving for accuracy**
  CBL emphasizes ownership of the learning process. Through ownership, the learners set high standards and develop strategies for continuous improvement.

- **Gather data through all senses**

- **Managing Impulsivity**
  The Investigate phase of CBL provides learners with a process to resist jumping to conclusions and pre-conceived solutions.

- **Questioning and problem posing**
  Asking quality questions and learning through finding the answers is a critical component of CBL. From the Big Idea to the evaluation of the solution the learners pose problems and solve them.

- **Thinking & communicating with clarity and precision**
  As the learners work through the Challenge, they learn to think and communicate with clarity and efficiency. To develop and implement an effective solution the thinking needs to be clear and the communication precise.

- **Thinking interdependently**
  CBL naturally cycles between independent and interdependent thinking. The learners develop ownership over their thinking through ongoing interaction with their team, the content, and external experts.

- **Persisting**
  CBL provides a supportive framework to learn how to overcome obstacles and work towards the implementation of a solution.

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[challengebasedlearning.org](http://challengebasedlearning.org)  [habitsofmindinstitute.org](http://habitsofmindinstitute.org)

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