In this short article from Edutopia, a middle school teacher describes *Starting Small with PBL* using three tips for teachers:

* Integrate student choice.
* Don’t focus on grades.
* Give students space to fail safely.

[Read more about what happened the first time Lesley Bright tried PBL.](https://www.edutopia.org/article/starting-small-pbl)

Successful projects are designed to give students choice and encourage creativity, while also requiring demonstration of content understanding and skills from the Standards of Learning and 5Cs (collaboration, communication, creative thinking, critical thinking, and citizenship). Choose or design a project that allows students flexibility in how they respond while keeping them focused on essential concepts and skills. [Use this Essential Project Design Elements Checklist from the Buck Institute to assess your project idea.](https://www.bie.org/object/document/pbl_essential_elements_checklist)

Getting started doesn’t mean starting over! Teachers can begin by building aspects of PBL into the great instruction they are already planning for their students. Join VASCD and the amazing Peyton Anderson in Salem VA on September 26 for our ***Everyday PBL*** Seminar. [Information and registration](http://vascd.org/index.php/home/professional-learning/everyday-pbl-unlocking-the-pedagogy-behind-the-project) is available at vascd.org.