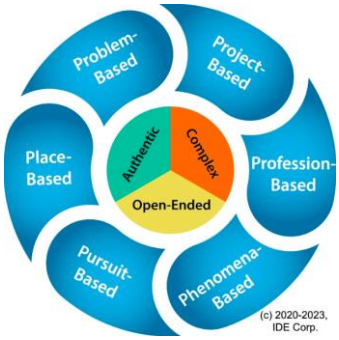
Using AI as a Thought Partner: The Perfect Problem



It's time to brainstorm some of the "Ps" of PBL using artificial intelligence!

Step 1: Think about the next unit you will be teaching:

- What are the curricular standards for that unit?
- What concepts and skills do students need to learn by the end of the unit?
- What are students generally interested in discussing?

Step 2: Consider how you will prompt AI to elicit effective responses. Consider using the sample prompts below:

- **Set the Stage:**
  - "Can you provide a real-world scenario that students can explore as a problem-based learning task?"
  - "Generate a situation where students can apply their knowledge and skills to solve a meaningful problem."

- **Subject-Specific:**
  - "Create a problem-based task statement related to [subject or topic], suitable for [grade level]."
  - "I'm teaching [specific subject] to [grade level]. Can you suggest a problem-based learning unit?"

- **Complexity and Depth:**
  - "Can you design a problem that encourages critical thinking and deep exploration?"
  - "I'm looking for a complex problem that can be broken down into smaller tasks for students to solve. Can you help?"

- **Real-World Application:**
  - "Generate a problem-based scenario that connects classroom learning to real-world applications."
  - "How can I make a problem-based unit that demonstrates the practical relevance of the subject matter?"

- **Multidisciplinary:**
  - "Create a task statement that integrates concepts from multiple subjects or disciplines."

    - "I want to design a problem-based unit that bridges [subject A] and [subject B]. Can you provide ideas?"

- **Global Perspective:**
    - "Generate a task statement that exposes students to global issues and perspectives."
    - "I'd like to incorporate global awareness into my problem-based unit. Can you suggest a scenario?"

- **Assessment and Learning Outcomes:**
    - "Can you help me formulate clear learning objectives and assessment criteria for this problem-based unit?"
    - "What are some ways to assess students' progress and learning outcomes in a problem-based learning scenario?"

- **Differentiation:**
    - "Suggest strategies to differentiate the problem-based task for students with varying abilities and learning styles."
    - "How can I adapt this unit to meet the needs of diverse learners?"

- **Ethical Considerations:**
    - "Help me identify ethical considerations that students should explore within this problem-based scenario."
    - "What are some ethical dilemmas or issues that can be integrated into this unit?"

- **Authentic Audience:**
    - "How can I involve an authentic audience or community in this problem-based task?"
    - "Create a scenario where students can present their solutions to a real audience."

- **Resources and Materials:**
    - "What resources or materials can I provide to support this problem-based unit?"
    - "Are there any online tools or platforms that can enhance this problem-solving scenario?"

By asking these questions, you can elicit creative and thoughtful responses from ChatGPT to help design problem-based learning tasks and units that align with specific teaching goals and objectives.

Step 3: Using the graphic organizer, choose one or more AI platforms to generate possible real-world problems and/or challenges that you can pose to your students to get them engaged and motivated to learn the content and skills related to the standards in this unit. **Challenge yourself to think beyond the more obvious ideas and push yourself to tap into your students' passions and interests!**

Type of "P"	Authentic Problem or Challenge
Problem	
Project	
Profession	
Place	
Pursuit	
Phenomena	