

## **Adapted from Authentic Learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: An Overview (2007)**

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Access at <http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/eli3009.pdf>

Learning researchers have distilled the essence of the authentic learning experience down to ten design elements, providing educators with a useful checklist that can be adapted to any subject matter domain.

### 1. Real-world relevance:

Authentic activities match the real-world tasks of professionals in practice as nearly as possible.

### 2. Ill-defined problem:

Real world challenges are almost always ill-defined and “messy”. Authentic activities are relatively undefined and open to multiple interpretations.

### 3. Sustained investigation:

Problems cannot be solved in a matter of minutes or even hours. Authentic activities comprise complex tasks to be investigated by students over a sustained period of time.

### 4. Multiple sources and perspectives:

Authentic activities allow students to examine the task from a variety of theoretical and practical perspectives using a variety of resources, requiring them to distinguish relevant from irrelevant information in the process.

### 5. Collaboration:

Authentic activities make collaboration integral to the task.

### 6. Reflection (metacognition):

Authentic activities enable learners to make choices and reflect on their learning, both individually and as a team or community.

### 7. Interdisciplinary perspective:

Relevance is not confined to a single subject area. Authentic activities have consequences that extend beyond a particular discipline, encouraging students to think in interdisciplinary terms.

### 8. Integrated assessment:

Assessment is not merely summative (at the end of the course or experience). Assessment in authentic activities is formative (throughout) and ongoing as in real life.

### 9. Polished products:

Authentic activities culminate in the creation of a whole product, valuable in its own right.

### 10. Multiple interpretations and outcomes:

Authentic activities allow for diverse interpretations and competing solutions.

## **Response:**

Discuss ways in which the above principles can be adapted to your various contexts (academic setting, church, your cultural context). Which seem most relevant or applicable?