CBL – Ten Tips

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When considering the introduction, transition to or adaptation of CBL within a course, it is worth bearing the following tips, taken from our own experience, in mind!

1. CBL can be resource intensive. Don't underestimate the time and effort required for successful implementation – gradual integration into a course may be preferable to all at once.
2. CBL scenarios should form the framework by which learning outcomes are achieved. Therefore learning outcomes must be established before the scenario/s is/are selected and not vice versa.
3. As students become more familiar with the CBL process they will then get more out of it in terms of learning – keep the process consistent across scenarios (can mix things up for interest at a later point).
4. Avoid excessive overlap of learning objectives between scenarios, though some revision, consolidation or application to a new situation may be beneficial.
5. Consider inclusion of references to material covered previously or in concurrent courses to aid knowledge integration.
6. While there may be an individual driving CBL integration within a course, a team approach has many benefits (shared responsibility, brainstorming, consistency, review process, engagement and building of relationships with industry experts, cross-course integration etc.)
7. Where the CBL scenarios will be facilitated by a number of people (e.g. tutors) consider desired background, consistency vs. diversity, and do not underestimate the importance of providing adequate training on the process.
8. Have a clear introduction/orientation to the process for students (and facilitators) to clarify rationale, expectations, desired outcomes etc. for example via lecture, initial introductory tutorial, handbook, all three!
9. It is easy to both under- and over-estimate the time it will take students to work through a given scenario, it will take some trial and error to get the formula right.
10. Pre-empt and have clear pathways for trouble-shooting difficult group dynamics, poorly performing students, and non-engagers.
11. This isn't really a tip, but feel free to contact us should you have any questions!

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