

While I am grateful for all of the advice and knowledge my mentor teacher passed down to me, he was a very traditional sort of teacher. So when I fully took over the classroom I knew I would need to be able to collaborate with teachers other than my mentor to get some more project based and activity based learning experiences. Another teacher on my floor has a primarily project based classroom. So when I came up with the idea that I wanted students to create their own reference books, I knew he'd have good advice for me in terms of how much time I should provide them in and out of class, and mistakes I should avoid when making my rubric.

He had actually already done a different book project. So when we were discussing mine, he let me use his rubric as a guideline for the product expectations. It was unbelievably helpful to be able to talk through some of the more specific challenges with a veteran teacher who enjoys teaching in a project based classroom. There were a lot of small details that I would not have necessarily thought of on my own. For example, explicitly telling students to bring in supplies for class periods we'd be working on our projects. He is also more familiar with my students having taught them in other classes in previous years, so he was able to prepare me for what kinds of expectations I should be setting for my classes.