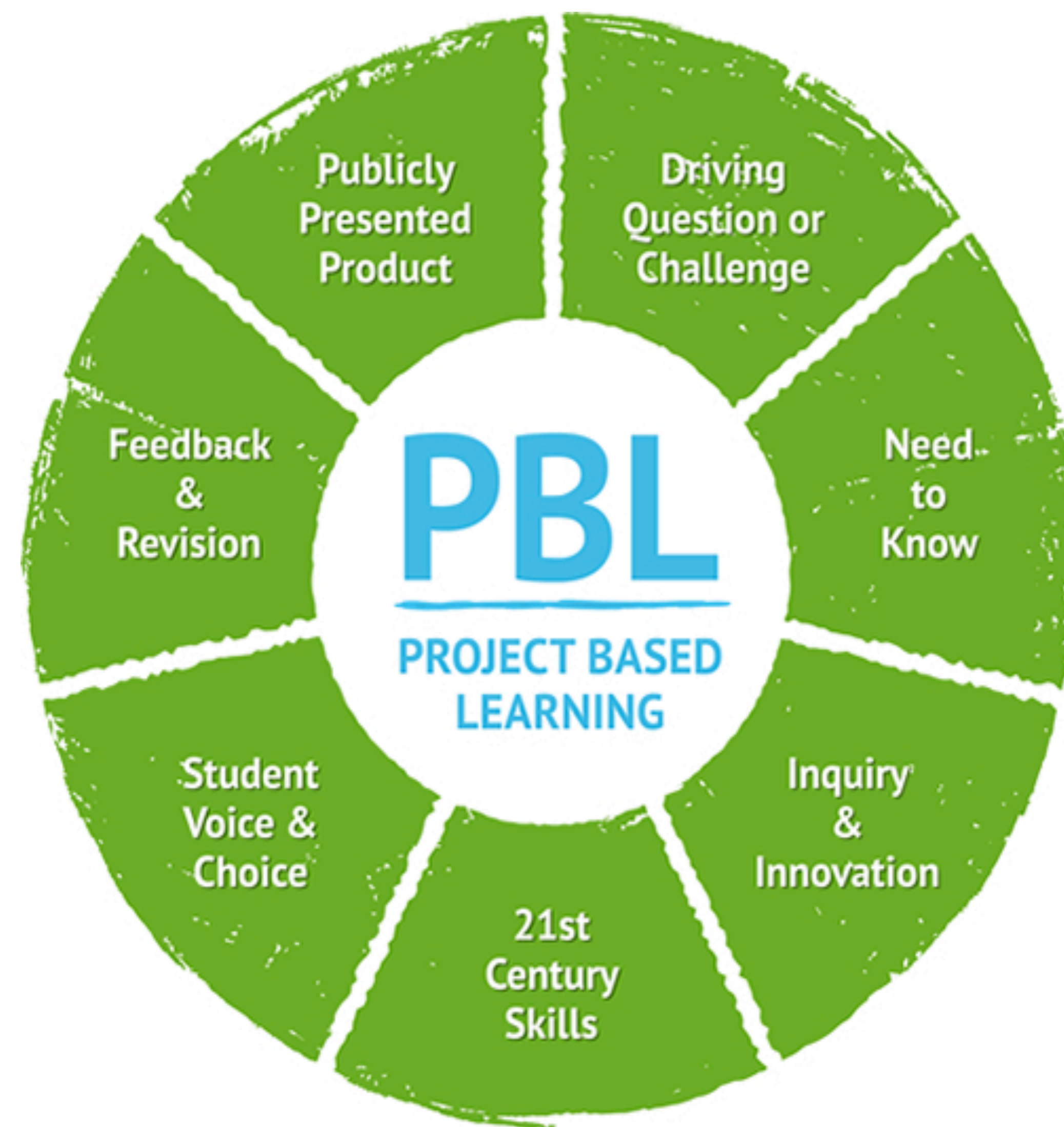


PROJECT BASED LEARNING EVENTS TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN THEIR ACADEMIC CONTENT

Purpose

- Fresno State serves students from many marginalized backgrounds, and there are inequities that exist in the academic world.
- Tutors have participated in PBL training exercises and have seen large gains in overall tutoring performance, which helped win a NASPA Gold Excellence award
- Tutors observe students who do not engage in additional practice problems/mental retrieval because they are stressed about deadlines
- Providing food and facilitating PBL opportunities for students will help them actively engage with material



THEORY

- PBL approach, students are encouraged to become independent workers, critical thinkers, and lifelong learners (George Lucas Educational Foundation, 2017)
- Gary (2015) defines PBL as sustained team interactions on scalable problems that require constant synthesis.
- Gary (2015) suggests that short-term skills focused activities do an inadequate job of putting skills in context.
- Latham (2016) explains how PBL allows students of color to bring assets and things they care about into their learning.

Results

- Students actively solve problems and issues while applying it to the real world.
- Students develop success skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and collaborating with their peers.
- Students find meaning and understanding in their learning.
- Students' level of engagement is heightened and it increases retention of information.
- Students learn to use technology as a mean of finding resources, establishing credibility of information, and connecting with experts and other organizations.

