

# sigalo



## Special Interest Group for Authentic Learning Opportunities

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### Abstract

The walls of the classroom need to be broken down, not in acts of mayhem, but in authenticity of learning. Authentic learning opportunities occur when students interpret, collaborate, and investigate to solve real-world problems and produce polished products, which in turn promotes critical thinking and increases student motivation. Bringing authentic learning opportunities to the forefront of the classroom can be a daunting task, but it is a task that has been made easier with increasing technological resources. Our group, Special Interest Group for Authentic Learning Opportunities (SIGALO), is dedicated to understanding why authentic learning opportunities are essential in today's classroom and how to turn these opportunities into applicable activities and assessments using technological resources. In doing so, student work will naturally lend itself to an authentic audience. With today's learning culture becoming increasingly collaborative and web-based, the days are over in which learning only happens between the morning and afternoon bells and remains within the classroom walls. By utilizing authentic learning opportunities, educators can better serve the students of the twenty-first century.



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## au·then·tic

derived from the Greek roots *auto* meaning "self" and *hentes* meaning "doer" or "worker"



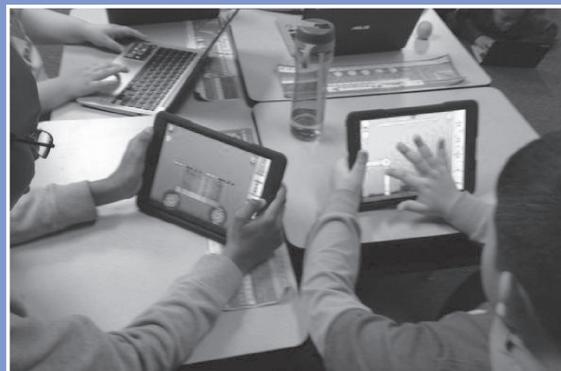
**connecting the classroom...**  
reflection and metacognition  
sustained investigation  
integrated assessments



**through technology...**  
polished products  
authentic audiences  
multiple perspectives



**to the world**  
real-world relevance  
problem solving  
collaborative communities



### References

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