PBL+ Special Interest Project
5-Step Organizer

Step 1: The Compelling Hook (1-2 Days)

1. **What is the special interest you'll be exploring and learning about in this project?**	
2. **What do you think about the driving question and do you understand the purpose of this project?**	
3. **Do you have any questions about the project or any of the resources presented during the compelling hook activity?**	
4. **Reflect on your first team meeting and your shared agreements. What went well and what didn't? How can you help improve the team? What role are you assuming and task are you completing for this project?**	
5. **What critical documents will you need to complete your works successfully? Link them to this document if you need to. (e.g., rubric, task list, presentation script, etc.)**	

PBL+ Special Interest Project
5-Step Organizer

Step 2: Explore Major Concept(s)

Use this space to describe what you're learning about the [special interest](#) you've selected to explore.

- **Why does this topic matter to you?**
- **What are some of the major concepts within in this topic?**
- **Which concept interests you the most?**
- **What problem(s) need solutions for the concept you've selected?**
- **What problem are you going to develop a solution for?**

Step 3: Learn from an Expert

You should know the problem you want to solve and can begin seeking out an industry expert(s) in this phase of the project to learn and partner with. Research good professionals in your area but don't contact them directly—present your search to your teacher (who will make contact for you).

If you're still unsure, here are some questions that can help guide your search.

- **What is the job title of the professional who solves similar problem(s) to the one I'm attempting to solve?**
- **What will I need to know and do to develop a solution to the problem?**
- **Has anyone else tried to solve this problem, and how were they successful?**
- **Does this industry expert work locally, and how can they be contacted (e.g., by email, phone #, etc.)?**

PBL+ Special Interest Project
5-Step Organizer

Step 4: Develop a Solution that Matters

Develop and refine your solution(s) to the problem you're attempting to solve. It's important to document your design process as it will come in handy for explaining your work. Here are some considerations.

- **Consider how your solution answers the driving question.**
- **Why and for who is your solution important?**
- **Can you map out your solution steps in a logical and coherent way so someone else can replicate it and get similar results?**

Step 5: Explain the Solution Publicly

The following are important considerations for refining how you present your work publicly. Here are some considerations to ensure you have a compelling message and polish your work.

- **Who in your community will benefit most from being invited to view your work?**
- **A presentation script to organize your message (consider the beginning, middle and end).**
- **Compose a compelling call to action (CTA) if applicable. A CTA can underpin your speech or writing or come in a slogan that requests or encourages your audience to take action about a problem or important cause.**

PBL+ Special Interest Project
5-Step Organizer

Reflection:

Take a moment to reflect after your project is complete. Remember the powerful John Dewey quote, *"We do not learn from experience... we learn from reflecting on experience."* • **What did you learn about your topic or special interest? Are you going to pursue learning more about it?** • **How did you contribute to your team's synergy?** • **What were your biggest takeaways?** • **What would you do differently?**	