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Problem-Based Learning in Public Administration: Teaching Ethics Online

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Published in GVER, Vol. 4 No. 3-4

This article describes Problem-Based Learning (PBL) as a teaching technique for web based courses. New research in cognitive development suggests that our current methods of teaching abstract concepts, such as those found in ethics courses in Public Administration, can be improved upon greatly. Though it is not a panacea for all the challenges of ethics education, PBL requires the learner to participate in a number of exercises that forces them to construct the concept in multiple dimensions. This new educational tool helps professors engage both the hearts and minds of students so that ethics education becomes a part of their new professional lives.

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