POGIL®

THE POGIL PROJECT

It's time to change how we **teach** and **learn**

THE POGIL PROJECT

Educators dedicated to
better learning outcomes.

Professional development that
transforms classrooms.

Skills that prepare students for
the future.

POGIL®

The POGIL Project envisions an educational system that prepares every learner to enrich the world by thinking critically, solving problems, working effectively with others, and experiencing the joy of discovery.

An acronym for **Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning**, POGIL is a unique, student-centered team learning instructional strategy based on research into how students learn best.

For more than 20 years, we've helped educators across the country adapt and master this innovative approach to instruction and get real results. With your support, we will grow our capacity to:

- provide high-quality, affordable professional development that helps educators **transform teaching and learning**
- develop and publish **rigorously tested, peer-reviewed, standards-aligned POGIL materials** designed to improve student outcomes
- **support and sustain a community of educators** that fosters a sense of belonging, improves the teaching practices of its members, and changes our entire system of teaching and learning
- leverage our community of transformation to **bring this educational approach** to all learners and prepare them for the future

Philanthropic support in these areas will allow The POGIL Project to transform classrooms with active teaching and learning practices, support the professional needs of educators working to improve learning outcomes, even the playing field for all learners, and prepare students with skills they need to succeed.

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Transforming **Teaching and Learning**

In his first year of teaching anatomy and physiology, about 20% of Patrick Brown's students earned Ds and Fs.

"Anatomy and Physiology is right behind organic chemistry for attrition nationwide," Brown, associate professor of health sciences at East Tennessee State University, explained. "So it was not good. I was very frustrated."

But when Brown attended his first three-day POGIL workshop, he found a new, more effective way to reach his students.

"By the next year, I had replaced about half of my lectures with POGIL," said Brown. "I saw my D/F rate go from 25% to 12% to 6%. I even had one fall semester where nobody made below a C+. I was like, this is doing the job. This is working."

Ultimately, Brown started writing his own POGIL activities and published them in 2015's *Anatomy and Physiology: A Guided Inquiry*.

"Just about every career milestone I've ever had, I've had because of The POGIL Project," said Brown, ticking off half a dozen opportunities, from publications to job offers.

"There have been a lot of other NSF-funded initiatives that didn't make it a month past the end of their funding," he added. "If there's one thing POGIL does really well, besides helping people learn, it's building relationships amongst teachers."

"POGIL is doing the job. This is working.

– Patrick Brown, Associate Professor of Health Sciences, College of Public Health, East Tennessee State University

What You See in Active Learning Classrooms

Traditional teaching methods like lecturing leave many students behind. Instead, in an active POGIL classroom, you'll see:

- students collaborating in teams to complete an activity and lend each other support
- teams reading questions aloud, reaching consensus, and taking on active roles, such as team leader and group recorder
- instructors circulating throughout the room, listening to student conversations, and facilitating learning

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Transforming **Teaching and Learning**

The POGIL Project's transformative approach to teaching and learning isn't simply more active than traditional lecture. It's more effective, too. Studies show that students in POGIL classrooms:

- achieve higher grades and test scores on common and standardized exams
- have higher knowledge retention rates than students who are taught through lecture alone
- improve their communication, teamwork, and creative problem solving skills
- have better critical thinking skills

Active learning works—and The POGIL Project is dedicated to helping educators develop the skills they need to bring these methods to their own students.

> "Students do not learn by being told."
>
> — Jim Spencer

Why Active Learning Works

"I have found that active modes of learning and teaching are better than passive modes," wrote Jim Spencer in *NEA Higher Education Journal.* Spencer was co-founder of The POGIL Project and 2005 recipient of the George C. Pimentel Award in Chemical Education given by the American Chemical Society.

"In spite of themselves, students learn something if they are actively engaged and thinking during class. Students do not make the same connections as their teachers; no matter how clearly we may say it, students do not learn by being told."

Your investment in our high-quality, affordable professional development offerings ensures that all teachers will be able to facilitate active learning effectively—and see these transformative results in their own classrooms.

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Peer-Reviewed, Standards-Aligned POGIL Materials

The POGIL Project offers far more than professional development activities for teachers. We're also dedicated to publishing unique materials designed to drive better results in the classroom.

"Our high-quality activities are not just written by one teacher," explained Laura Trout, materials coordinator for The Project and the 2024 American Chemical Society's Conant Award-winner for excellence in high school chemistry teaching.

"Activities are classroom tested and go through many, many revisions," she added. "We're always thinking about process skills, like critical thinking or communication, and what the student experience is going to be. We also consider the realities of time pressure and curriculum that all teachers face."

"It's always a team effort."

> "Our high-quality activities are not just written by one teacher. It's always a team effort.
>
> — Laura Trout

How We Design, Develop, and Test Classroom Materials

Since 2003, The POGIL Project has:

- created, tested, and distributed activity collections in subjects ranging from art to computer science, and from chemistry to calculus
- developed both college-level activities and materials designed for learners in secondary school
- ensured that our middle and high school activity collections support the Next Generation Science Standards
- expanded the audience and accessibility of our materials by translating POGIL Life Science Activities into Spanish

With your support, we can continue to rigorously design the collections our community members need most, support the peer review process, and test collections in classrooms to ensure the highest quality.

“

There have been many educational reform initiatives that wither or die when the funding goes away. POGIL is bucking that trend, so much so that POGIL has been studied by others to learn how we accomplished this—on our way to becoming a community of transformation.

– Michael Garoutte, Professor, Chemistry, Missouri Southern State University

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Support and Sustain **a Community of Educators**

In 2015, The POGIL Project was one of four organizations identified as a "community of transformation" in a study conducted by the University of Southern California.

This unique type of organization not only improves the practices of its members but also achieves systemic change for greater impact.

According to the study, members of The POGIL Project are dedicated to:

- fostering a sense of belonging
- improving the practices of fellow educators
- providing a critical 'support group' environment for other group members
- working to achieve systemic change in education

Educators are now faced with the unrelenting pressures exacerbated by the pandemic. Investments in The POGIL Project will sustain a community of educators deeply committed to the profession during challenging times. What's more, your support of our community of transformation goes toward just that: helping us make the profession better for one another—and our students.

POGIL not only develops content, but also essential skills for workforce development. These include critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, and communication skills, which are essential to any position in the workforce. My students ask for these skills, and POGIL can—and does—deliver.

—Teresa Bixby, Associate Professor, Chemistry, Lewis University

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Prepare All Students **for the Future**

The POGIL approach to teaching reaches all students in ways they learn best—even those who struggle or who have experienced inequity in the educational system.

With its signature emphasis on improving both process skills and content mastery, POGIL improves learning outcomes, prepares students for the future, and helps close the equity gap.

This is especially important as we deal with the after-effects of the pandemic, which include challenges around student communication, learning loss, and well-being.

Your support of The POGIL Project ensures that educators have access to affordable professional development activities and teaching materials that prepare all students for future success.

73%
of employers have difficulty finding candidates with strong communication, listening, and critical thinking skills*

*Source: 2018 Cengage/Morning Consult Survey

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The educators who believe in POGIL can't do it alone, and you have the power to help. Join the POGIL movement to ensure that teachers everywhere have tools to engage students in ways they learn best.

"The POGIL Project began as a small, chemistry-focused approach to classroom teaching funded entirely by the National Science Foundation. Twenty years later, we've learned that POGIL has the potential to make an impact on both teachers and students at an epic scale.

The educators in our community have seen the value of this approach, donated funds, and kept our doors open for decades. Now we need your help to continue growing in a sustainable way, so we can maximize our impact on teachers and students everywhere."

— Rick Moog, Executive Director, The POGIL Project

Donate to The POGIL Project today!

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