

# PROCESS ORIENTED GUIDED INQUIRY LEARNING

## The POGIL Project

- POGIL (Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning) is a student-centered team learning approach that can be used effectively within a variety of existing classroom spaces.
- POGIL is based on research indicating that students learn best when they are actively engaged and constructing their own understanding of content while developing key skills.
- In a POGIL classroom, students work cooperatively in teams of three or four using specially designed activities to guide them to construct new knowledge.
- Students are assigned specific roles within the teams to ensure every student is actively engaged.
- Optimally, student teams gather around a table to facilitate interaction and exchange.
- POGIL has been effectively implemented in any classroom space, from small conference rooms to large lecture halls and labs.
- Instructors facilitate student-to-student interactions, responding to student questions by guiding the team to find the answer themselves.
- In a POGIL learning environment, there is an emphasis on helping students develop higher-order skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and communication through cooperation and reflection.



### ABOUT POGIL

POGIL uses guided inquiry—a learning cycle of exploration, concept invention, and application that is the basis for the carefully designed materials that students use. POGIL activities focus on core concepts and encourage a deep understanding of the course material while developing process skills that help students become lifelong learners and prepare them to be more competitive in a global market. POGIL originated in college chemistry departments in 1994.

The POGIL Project became a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization in 2012 and has evolved into a professional development organization for educators whose mission is to connect and support educators from all disciplines interested in implementing, improving, and studying student-centered pedagogies and learning environments. There are now well more than 1600 implementers in a wide range of disciplines in high schools and colleges around the country.

*"I'm a firm believer, that essentially everyone is capable of learning. One of the issues we have with the way the educational system is set up, is that students are not asked to think and interact with other people. There's a great deal of evidence that student-centered, active learning environments provide a better educational experience than more traditional instructor-centered environments. POGIL focuses on the instructor as someone who is helping students learn, as opposed to being an instructor who is teaching something to students."*

— Richard S. Moog, Professor of Chemistry at Franklin & Marshall College and Director of The POGIL Project

#### RESEARCH & RESOURCES

- <https://pogil.org/>
- <https://serc.carleton.edu/sp/pkal/pogil/index.html>

