

Scenario-based learning

What is scenario-based learning?

Scenario-based learning (SBL) is a pedagogical approach using interactive, realistic scenarios to promote problem solving, decision-making, and critical thinking (Errington, 2005). It is based on 'real-life' contexts or situations that often exemplify particular themes and concerns in the classroom. When scenario-based learning is embedded into the curriculum, it provides additional value and support in the development of key attributes, enabling trainees to explore professionally-oriented issues not readily accessible in conventional lectures and tutorials (Eland et al. 2010). Scenario-based learning complements, but does not replace, practical experiences in classrooms.

What theories support SBL?

SBL reflects a constructivist pedagogy that is based on the understanding that learning is most effective when it takes place in a meaningful context. Self-efficacy theory plays a part in explaining how and why SBL influences classroom readiness.

Why do we use SBL for teacher development?

SBL promises to enhance the classroom readiness and teaching confidence of trainees. It offers the opportunity for trainees to reflect on realistic classroom scenarios and to engage with feedback from experienced teachers in a low risk and supportive on-line environment. SBL also has the potential to help trainees become more skilful in dealing with uncertainty (van der Heijden, 2002).

What does the SBL activity involve?

1. Trainees engage with a series of realistic school scenarios using an on-line survey tool. They rate the appropriateness of a set of responses, write a rationale for each, then view expert teachers' ratings. Tailored feedback is offered to the trainee based on how closely aligned their decision-making is with that of the experienced teachers.
2. Trainees can be invited to participate in an online or face-to-face guided group discussion facilitated by school mentors or teacher training staff. Focus questions and practical activities are available.

You can try a brief SBL demo [here](#)

Interested in SBLs for your institution?

From September 2020, we welcome enquiries from your institution to develop bespoke SBL activities. Development steps can be found on the next page. Please contact our team at info@teacherselect.org for further information.

Creation of of bespoke SBL (process, people, purpose)

Step	Activity	Who?	Purpose
1	Contextualisation workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher educators and other education leaders TSP consultant to deliver workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine activity specification and purpose Determine target attributes
2	Item-writing workshop(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher educators and other education leaders TSP consultant to deliver workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content-writing training Develop item stems and responses Review items with feedback
3	Concordance review panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers, teacher educators, and other education leaders (can be remote) TSP consultant for analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solicit feedback on item content Set scoring key
4	Build online platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TSP consultant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create user-friendly interface
5	Large-scale pilot validation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing students TSP consultant for analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis psychometric properties Assess concurrent validity Assess applicant feedback Review test delivery platform
6	Continuing refinement and validation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants TSP consultant for analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess predictive validity
7	Review workshop(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher educators and other education leaders TSP consultant to deliver workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refresh item bank