

Real World Learning

Client-Connected Projects
An asset to guide your thinking

Quick Exercise

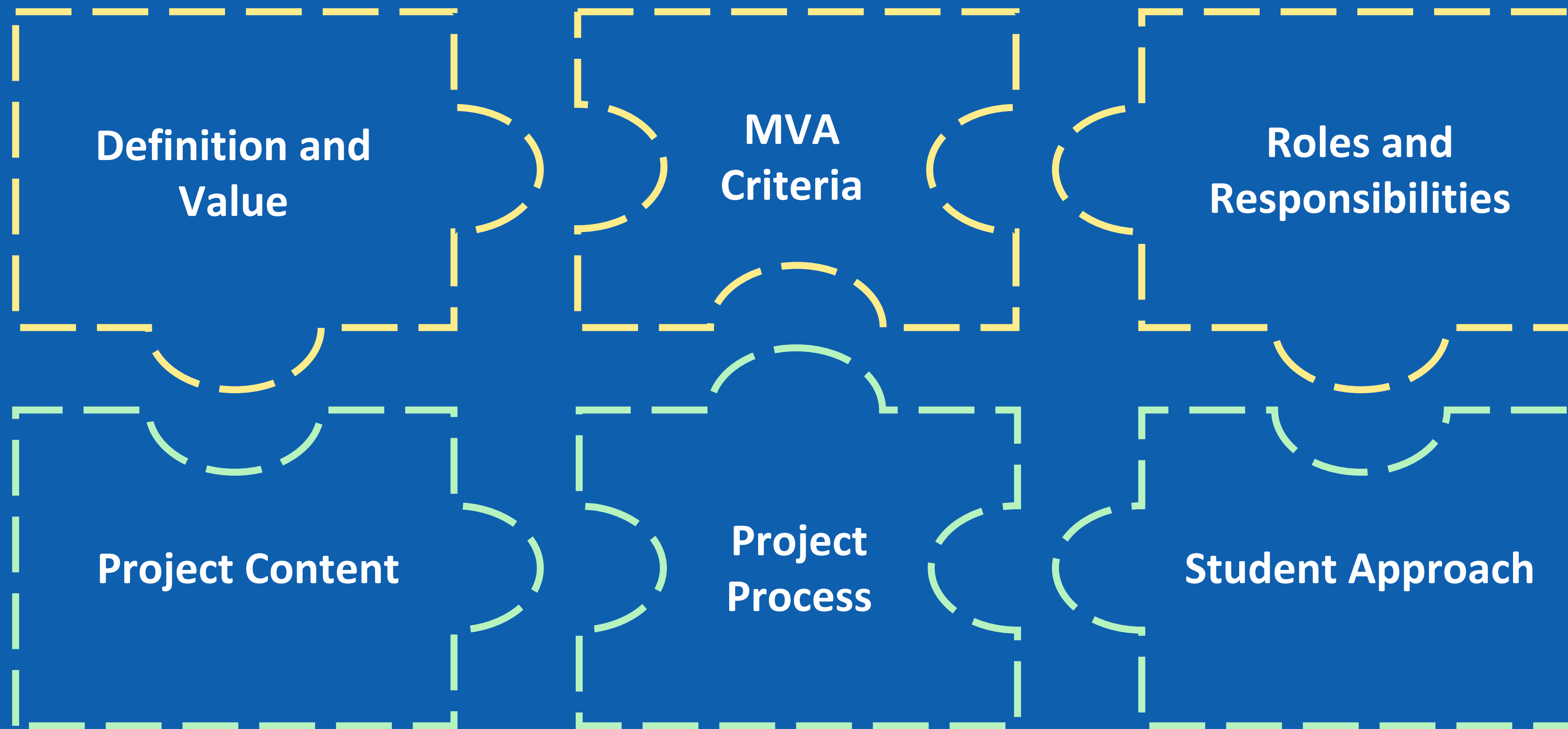
Jot down an idea for a client-connected project.

It could be

- One you're already engaged in
- One you'd like to launch

Think about some of the necessary elements and steps to put in place

Building Client-Connected Projects

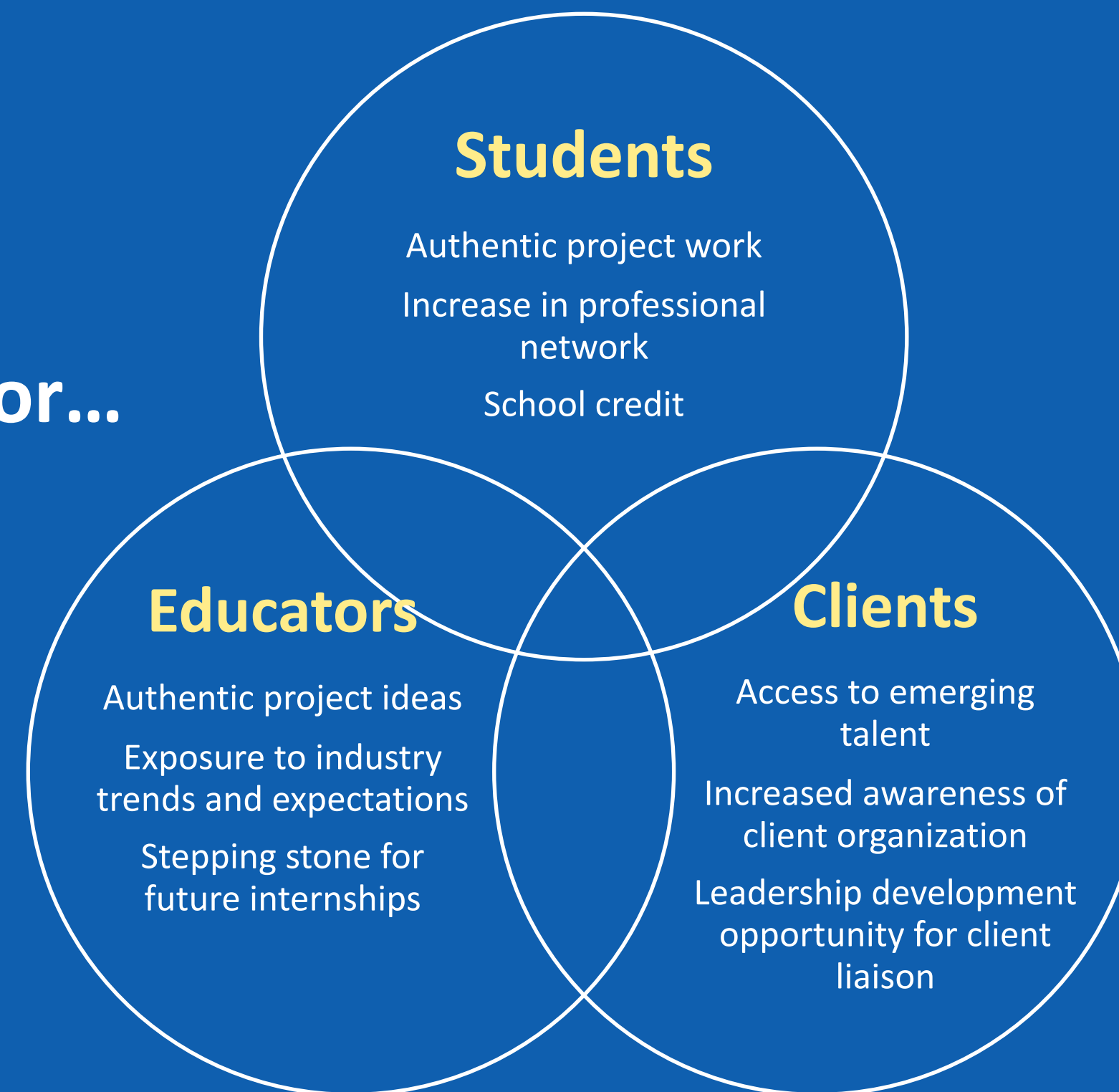


What are Client-Connected Projects? What value do they provide?

Client-Connected Projects are...

Authentic problems which students solve in collaboration with professionals from industry, not-for-profit, or community-based organizations.

Client-Connected Projects provide value for...



What are the MVA Criteria for Client-Connected Projects?

Client-Connected Projects are MVA-level experiences when they are...

- ✓ Sourced (at least sponsored) by the client
- ✓ Supplementary to students' professional network
- ✓ Resume-worthy (meaningful)
- ✓ At least 24 hours worth of work, with at least 4 hours engaged with client
- ✓ Jointly evaluated

What are potential roles and responsibilities?



Students

Learners

Will do the work

Responsible for self-management (attendance, effort, engagement)

Contact for direct feedback on project work



Client Liaison

Employer Representative

Will initiate/validate and react to the work

Responsible for initiating project prompt and evaluating student performance throughout process, will work hand-in-hand with Facilitator/Coach

will work hand-in-hand with Facilitator/Coach

Contact for feedback on job performance



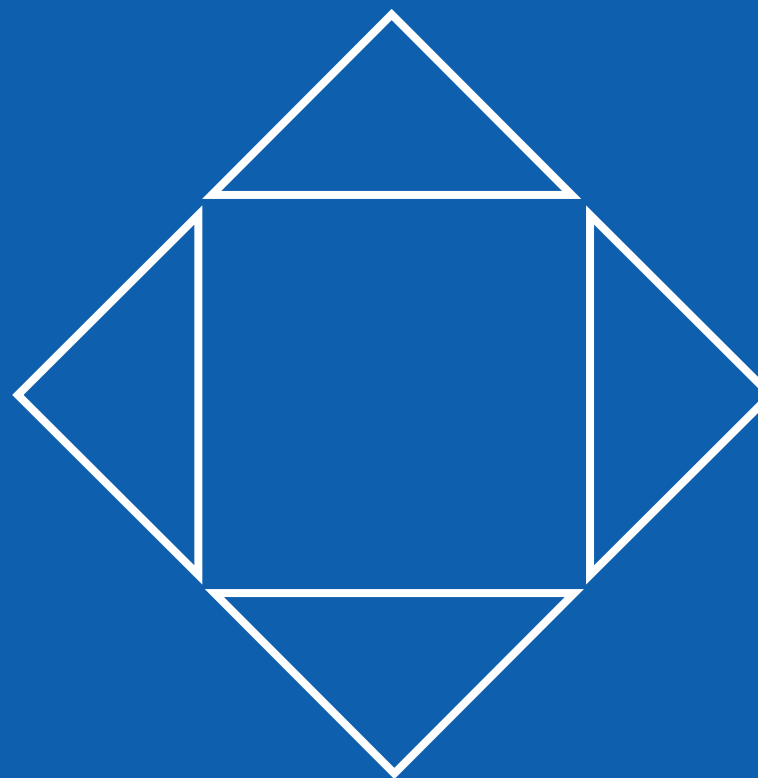
Facilitator/Coach

Educator/Guide

Will “coach the daily work”

Responsible for helping students manage the project work and internalize lessons, will work hand-in-hand with Client Liaison

Contact for feedback on overall student performance and learning



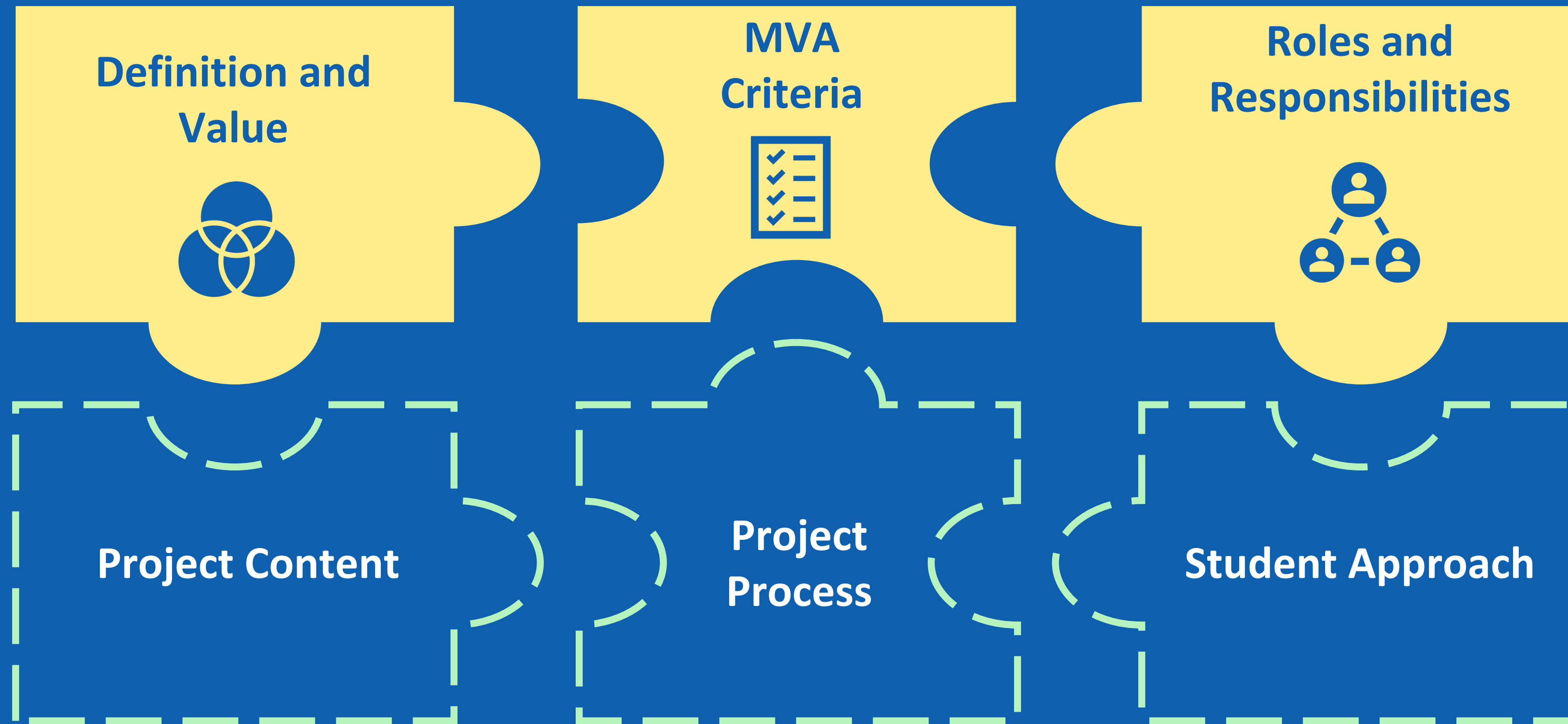
Subject Matter Experts

Informal Consultants

Will serve as primary resource for industry know-how

Responsible for making sure students' approach is viable

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What should be considered in planning the content of the project? Who should lead?

To plan the work of the project, the *Facilitator/Coach* and the *Client Liaison* should work hand-in-hand while considering the following:



1

Evaluate Work

- What work is available?
- Is work appropriate for student involvement?
- Which work optimizes student and organizational needs?
- Who would be most appropriate to serve as the primary client contact?

2

Set Appropriate Goals

- What would make this client project experience a success for the employer?
- Which critical skills can be developed throughout this project?
 - *Self-directed learning*
 - *Adaptive problem solving*
 - *Project management*
 - *Documenting problem-solving process*
 - *Communicate and collaborate*
 - *Create value for others*
 - *Seek and use feedback*

3

Set Project Expectations

- Establish project parameters to help students understand the project and plan execution
 - *Key Challenge/Problem Statement*
 - *Student Goals*
 - *Engagement with SMEs*
 - *Feedback and Reflection Cycle*
 - *Documentation of Approach*
 - *Finished Product*

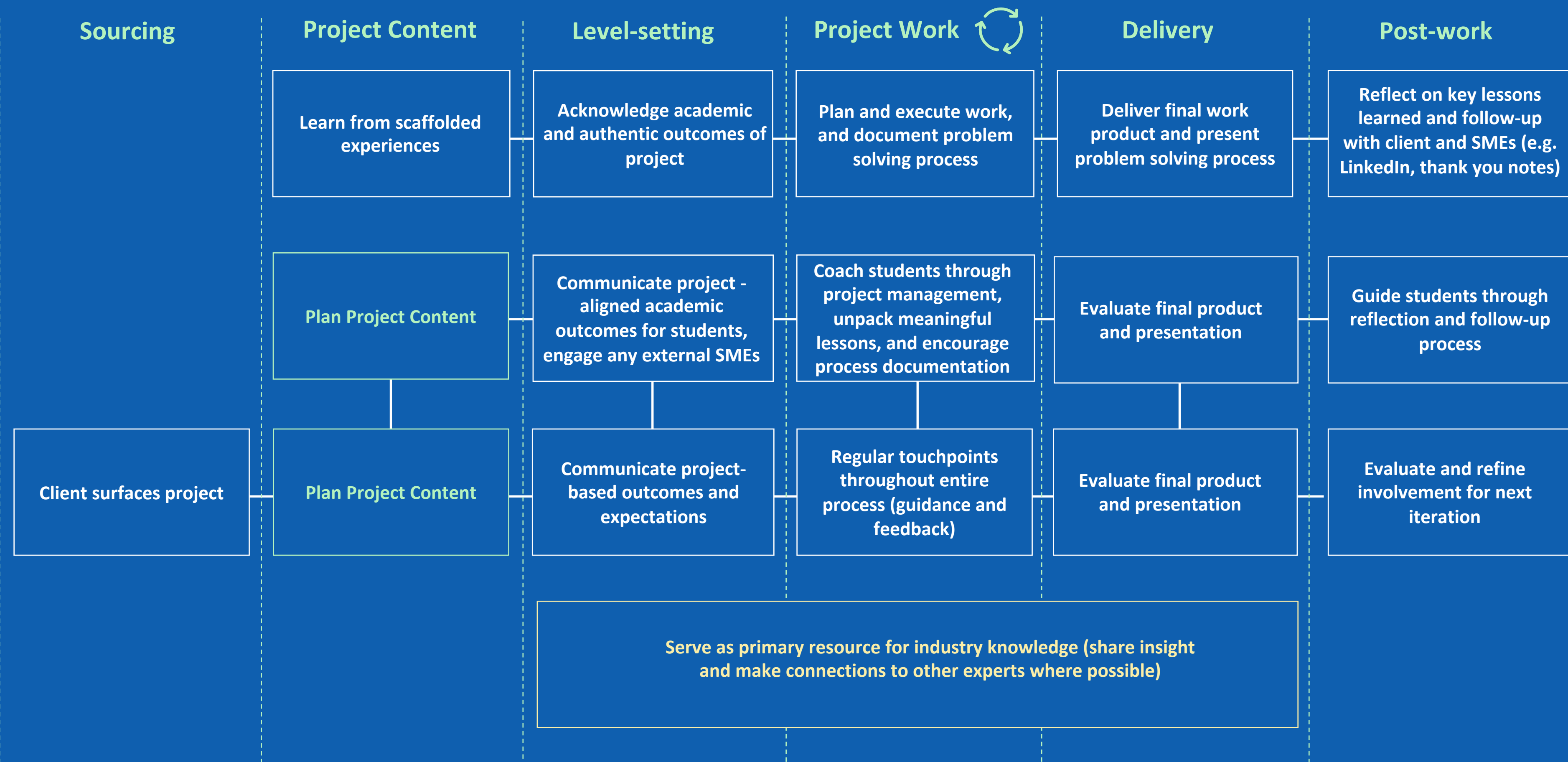
4

Create Timeline

- Establish key milestones for students
- Ideate back-up plans for any surprises

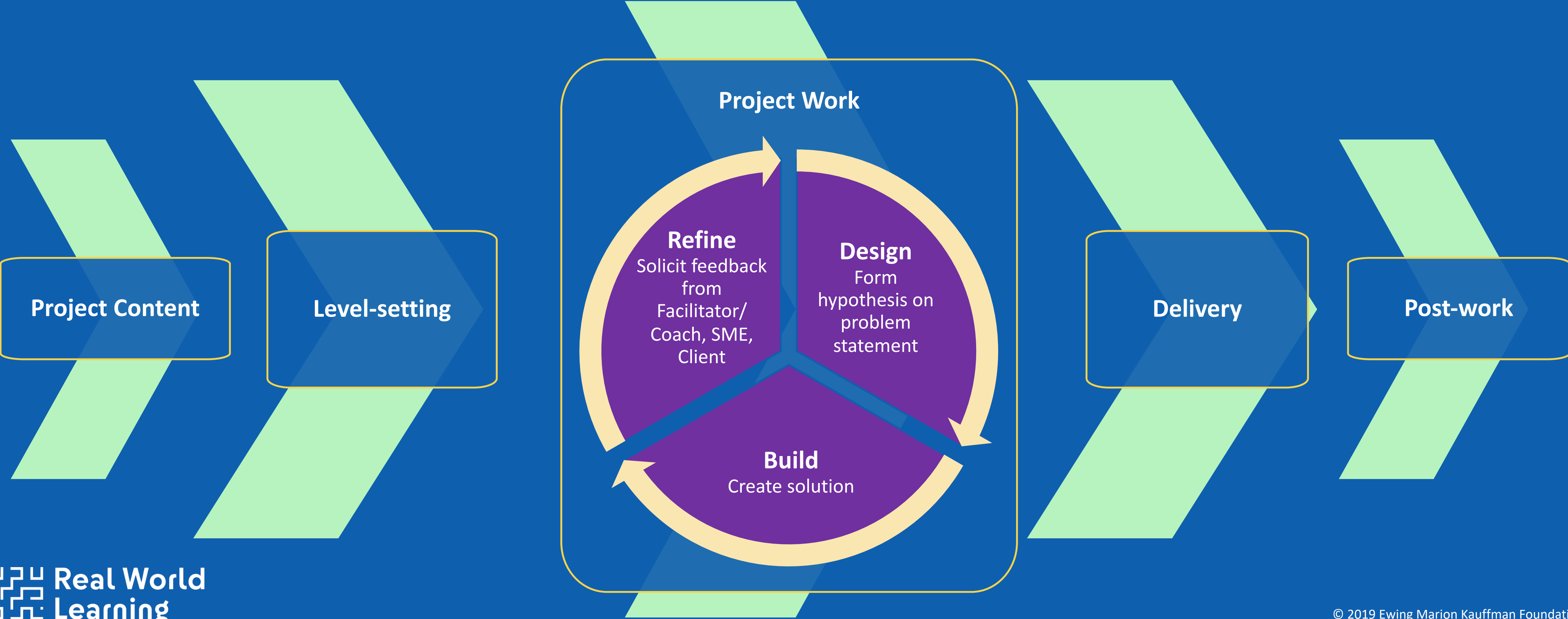
What would the process look like for everyone?

Consider this process outline as you plan the *phases, roles, and respective activities* throughout the project



How could students approach the project?

Within the greater process, set the conditions and expectations around regular consultation with the client, and iteration



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