



## INTEGRATION OF ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY FLIPBOOKS BASED ON PROJECT-BASED LEARNING IN IMPROVING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS AND SCIENTIFIC LITERACY TO SUPPORT SDG-4

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### ABSTRACT

This study was aimed at assessing the effectiveness of Project-Based Learning (PjBL)-based analytical chemistry flipbooks in improving students' critical thinking skills and scientific literacy, and linking the results to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG-4), namely quality education. This study used a quantitative approach with a quasi-experimental design, involving two groups: an experimental group ( $n = 250$ ) using PjBL-based flipbooks, and a control group ( $n = 250$ ) using conventional textbooks. The projects in PjBL were designed to challenge students to apply critical thinking skills in solving real problems in analytical chemistry. Scientific literacy was measured based on students' ability to understand, evaluate, and apply chemical concepts in the context of the project. Critical thinking skills and scientific literacy tests were used to measure learning outcomes before and after the intervention. The instrument in this study was a test of critical thinking skills and scientific literacy. Statistical tests showed that the data were normally distributed (significance value 0.216), homogeneous variance (0.074), and significant differences between the experimental and control groups ( $t = 0.038$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). The increase in n-gain in the experimental group reached 0.9 (high category), compared to 0.63 (moderate category) in the control group. This study concluded that Project-Based Learning-based flipbooks were significantly more effective than conventional textbooks in improving students' critical thinking skills and scientific literacy. The results of this study confirmed the superiority of PjBL-based flipbooks in significantly improving students' critical thinking skills and scientific literacy compared to conventional textbooks. Statistical data support (normal distribution, homogeneous variance, significant differences between groups, and high n-gain in the experimental group) encourages the adoption of PjBL-based flipbooks as an effective learning strategy to achieve quality education according to SDG-4.

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Keywords: critical thinking; scientific literacy; flipbook; project-based learning; analytical chemistry

### INTRODUCTION

Critical thinking skills and scientific literacy are essential for students to face the challenges of the 21st century. The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2022 shows that Indonesia faces major challenges in scientific literacy. Indonesia is ranked 68th and has an average

score of 398 in science, 379 in mathematics, and 371 in reading (Endaryati et al., 2021). These results highlight the need for further efforts to improve the quality of education, especially in the fields of science and critical literacy in Indonesia. Rahmawati and Atmojo (2022) and Mikhridinova et al. (2023) showed that students often have difficulty understanding abstract chemistry concepts, such as quantitative analysis and applying chemistry analysis methods in real contexts. The-

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refore, innovative approaches to learning, including the use of technology, are needed to address this gap.

Based on the survey of analytical chemistry students, their average ability to master the material in four categories of analytical chemistry courses reached 58.31%, which is included in the moderate category (Sari et al., 2024). These results indicate that mastery of the material is the main obstacle for students in understanding analytical chemistry concepts, causing difficulties in the learning process. Although the quality of lecturers in lectures reached 79.97% (moderate category), which indicates that lecturers carry out their duties well, several other factors need to be considered. One of them is the availability of teaching materials, which scored 57.78% (moderate category), which indicates that the available teaching materials have not fully met the needs of students to understand the material optimally (Sari et al., 2024). Therefore, further research to develop innovations in project-integrated teaching materials in analytical chemistry practicums is needed to improve students' ability to master analytical chemistry materials (Sari et al., 2024).

Preliminary studies showed that analytical chemistry students often have difficulty in understanding abstract concepts such as quantitative analysis and the application of chemical analysis methods in real contexts. This was reinforced by the survey results which showed that students' mastery of the material was classified as moderate. This gap in understanding indicates a need for more effective and engaging teaching methods. Research in chemistry education and related fields has shown that innovations in learning approaches, including the use of interactive technology and visualization, can increase student engagement and facilitate the understanding of abstract concepts and their application in real contexts. Therefore, innovation in learning approaches, including the use of technology, is needed to overcome this gap (Gyang & Adu-Gyamfi, 2024; Tursyngozhayev et al., 2024).

One solution to improve students' abilities is the development of technology-based flipbooks in analytical chemistry learning. This book utilizes interactive visual elements that can help students understand chemistry concepts that are often difficult to understand. Kurniawan et al. (2020) showed that using technology in textbooks can increase learning motivation. In addition, applying the Project-Based Learning (PjBL) model has improved students' critical thinking skills by allowing them to complete real-world problem-based projects relevant to the material being

studied (Abdulrahman et al., 2020). This combination of methods—technology-based flipbooks and PjBL models—is still limited in analytical chemistry research. Integrating these two approaches has the potential to create a more holistic learning experience, which not only enhances students' critical thinking skills and scientific literacy but also supports the goal of quality education (SDG-4) to build a more intelligent and competent society (Setiyawati, 2021; Aldraiweesh & Alturki, 2023; Indriyani, 2023).

Quality education is an important foundation for achieving sustainable development. Target 4.4 of SDG 4 emphasizes improving technical and vocational skills for decent work. In this context, the development of critical thinking skills and scientific literacy in analytical chemistry is highly relevant. These skills not only prepare students for careers in science and technology but also equip them to contribute to innovation and sustainable solutions. Moreover, the development of these skills also supports target 4.7, which is to ensure all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development (Dian et al., 2024; Hardianto et al., 2024).

The analytical chemistry flipbook offers a new way of presenting learning materials. With interactive visual elements, the book helps students understand the abstract concepts of analytical chemistry. Technology in textbooks can improve students' problem-solving skills, which are essential in chemistry education (Rahmawati & Atmojo, 2022; Vrečić et al., 2023). In addition, analytical chemistry flipbooks also encourage students to think critically and creatively, which is very important in facing real-world challenges (Natuna et al., 2021; Hastuti et al., 2023; Siswandari, 2023).

The PjBL model places students in real situations where they must complete projects that are relevant to the material being studied. PjBL can improve students' creativity and critical thinking skills by actively involving them in learning (Sumarni & Kadarwati, 2020; Mulyani et al., 2022; Syahri et al., 2023). In the context of analytical chemistry, PjBL can be used to design projects related to the analysis of chemical substances, where students can apply the theories they have learned in actual practice (Suana et al., 2023; Arga, 2024). This function aligns with the findings that PjBL can improve students' collaboration and communication skills (Churiyah, 2023; Ummah, 2023; Khoiri et al., 2023).

Integrating analytical chemistry flipbooks with PjBL models can create a more holistic learning experience. By combining interactive

flipbooks with PjBL-based projects, students can more easily understand analytical chemistry concepts and apply them in real projects (Kurniasari, 2023; Pujaningsih et al., 2023). This approach enhances critical thinking skills and prepares students to become active and responsible citizens (Bartholomay, 2022; Hujjatusnaini et al., 2022; Arifah, 2024).

Implementing flipbooks and PjBL focuses on improving critical thinking skills and developing 21st-century skills, such as collaboration, communication, and problem-solving. PjBL can improve students' literacy, critical thinking, and collaboration skills (Smuts et al., 2021; Maasø, 2023). This is especially important in chemistry education, where students must develop relevant skills to face real-world challenges (Putra et al., 2022; Kurniasari, 2023). Thus, integrating these two elements can significantly contribute to the achievement of SDG-4, which emphasizes the importance of quality education for all (McDaniel et al., 2022; Yensy et al., 2023; Scherer, 2024). This challenge becomes even more pronounced in higher education, particularly in analytical chemistry. Students often struggle to understand abstract chemical concepts, such as quantitative analysis and applying chemical analysis methods in daily life (Muhammadi, 2023). Therefore, innovative approaches such as using technology in learning are needed to address this gap. Wiratmoko and Sampurno (2021) showed that developing e-magazines in chemistry learning can improve students' understanding of the material. These results indicate that using digital media in education can positively impact students' understanding.

Developing technology-based flipbooks in analytical chemistry education can provide significant benefits for students. These flipbooks will not only help students understand complex chemistry concepts but can also increase their learning motivation. Yosintha (2024) showed that using Kvisoft Flipbook Maker to develop teaching materials can improve students' critical thinking skills. Thus, developing PjBL-based flipbooks can be a strategic step in improving the quality of education in analytical chemistry.

Although previous studies have shown the effectiveness of using technology in chemistry learning (Kurniawan, et al., 2020; Wiratmoko & Sampurno, 2021; Dahliana, 2024; Yosintha, 2024), and the application of the Project-Based Learning model in improving critical thinking skills (Abdulrahman et al., 2020; Syahri et al., 2023), research integrating technology-based flipbooks with the PjBL model in the context of

analytical chemistry is still limited. The integration of technology and active learning models can improve the quality of education. However, the application of this integration in the field of analytical chemistry, especially through the development of PjBL-based flipbooks, has not been widely explored. This research seeks to fill the gap by developing and testing the effectiveness of PjBL-based analytical chemistry flipbooks in improving students' critical thinking skills and scientific literacy (Scherer, 2024).

However, it is important to note that research on combining technology-based flipbooks and PjBL models is still limited in analytical chemistry. Further research is needed to explore the potential integration of these two approaches in higher education contexts. Sabitri (2024) showed that problem-based learning media can improve students' critical thinking skills. Therefore, this study is expected to improve the quality of education in analytical chemistry, which is in line with SDG-4 and educational achievement in Indonesia. In order to achieve these goals, it is important to involve various stakeholders in developing and implementing PjBL-based flipbooks. Collaboration between lecturers, students, and related parties will create a practical and enjoyable learning experience. Dahliana (2024) showed that developing e-flipbooks can improve students' digital literacy. These results indicate that the use of technology in education can have a positive impact on students' skills.

Overall, developing flipbooks and implementing the project-based learning model has great potential to improve students' critical thinking skills and scientific literacy. With an interactive and relevant approach, students can more easily understand complex concepts and develop the skills needed to face challenges in everyday life (Kaske et al., 2021; Mikhridinova et al., 2023). The integration of these two elements not only supports the goal of quality education but also contributes to the achievement of SDG-4 (Hamidani, et al., 2022; Fajrina et al., 2023). In this context, it is important to develop innovative teaching materials that can help students not only understand the material but also develop the skills needed to contribute to society (Choudhary et al., 2021; Melo et al., 2021; Jumiarni, 2023). Developing technology-based teaching materials can increase motivation and engagement in learning (Adegun et al., 2020; Lestari, 2023; Setiawaty et al., 2024). Therefore, developing analytical chemistry flipbooks in analytical chemistry education should be seen as a strategic step to improve the quality of education and students' critical

thinking skills (Canto et al., 2023; Hardiyanti et al., 2023). This study aimed to develop and evaluate the effectiveness of Project-Based Learning-based analytical chemistry flipbooks in improving critical thinking skills and scientific literacy of analytical chemistry students.

## METHODS

This research was quantitative research with a quasi-experimental design, involving two groups: an experimental group and a control group (Campbell & Stanley, 2015). The experimental group received treatment in the form of using a flipbook based on the Project-Based Learning (PjBL) model in learning analytical chemistry, while the control group used conventional textbooks. This study was aimed to determine the effectiveness of PjBL-based flipbooks in improving students' critical thinking skills and scientific literacy. Learning was conducted for 2 meetings. The materials used in the flipbook and textbook were adjusted to the Analytical Chemistry course syllabus. To ensure that both groups have equal initial abilities, a pretest was conducted before treatment.

The population in this study were all students who took Analytical Chemistry courses in the Chemistry Education study program in the current semester. The research sample consisted of 500 students, who were selected using purposive sampling technique based on the following inclusion criteria: (1) Registered as active participants in the Analytical Chemistry course this semester. (2) Have an educational background that is relevant to the field of chemistry.

The sample selection process was carried out by taking data from the list of course participants issued by the academic department. Furthermore, students who met the inclusion criteria were identified based on their academic history. Purposive sampling was chosen so that the sample obtained was homogeneous and relevant to the research objectives.

However, it should be recognized that the used of purposive sampling limits the generalizability of the study results. The selected sample may not fully represent the overall population of analytical chemistry students, and the results of the study may only apply to students with similar characteristics. Therefore, interpretation of the study results needs to be done with caution.

The instruments used in this study were critical thinking skills and scientific literacy tests, each consisting of 15 multiple choice questions. This test is designed to measure: (1) Understand-

ing of analytical chemistry concepts; (2) Analytical skills; (3) Problem solving skills; (4) Application of concepts in practical contexts.

The instrument was tested for content validity by four expert lecturers in Analytical Chemistry, who assessed the suitability of content, level of difficulty, and relevance to indicators of critical thinking skills and scientific literacy. Furthermore, construct validity was tested using exploratory factor analysis. Reliability tests were conducted using Cronbach's Alpha coefficient, and the targeted value was  $\geq 0.70$ , indicating acceptable internal consistency (Osborne, 2008).

Data collection in this study was carried out through giving pretests and posttests to both groups, namely the experimental group and the control group. The test was conducted in the form of a written exam in the classroom, with uniform time and conditions for all participants, in order to maintain fairness and accuracy of the results.

The pretest was given before the learning process began, with the aim of measuring students' initial ability to understand analytical chemistry concepts, critical thinking, and scientific literacy. Meanwhile, the posttest was given after the learning intervention was carried out for two meetings, both for groups using Project-Based Learning (PjBL) based flipbooks and groups using conventional textbooks. This test aims to evaluate the improvement of students' abilities after following the learning process with different approaches.

The data were analyzed using SPSS 16.0 for Windows software with several stages. First, the normality test was conducted using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test to ensure that the pretest and posttest data were normally distributed (Corder & Foreman, 2014). Second, the homogeneity test was conducted using Levene's test to check the equality of variance between the experimental and control groups (Verma & Salam, 2019). Next, a paired sample t-test was used to measure the difference in the pretest and posttest average scores. If the p-value  $< 0.05$ , then there is a significant difference. In addition, the n-gain test was used to measure the increase in students' abilities from pretest to posttest in three levels: low, medium, and high. With this approach, the study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of PjBL-based flipbooks in improving students' critical thinking skills and scientific literacy. N-Gain data was calculated using the formula in (Eq 1):

$$G = \frac{\text{posttest} - \text{pretest}}{\text{maximum score} - \text{pretest}} \dots \dots \dots (1)$$



Table 1 shows the n-gain score distribution.

**Table 1.** N-Gain Score Distribution

N-Gain Score	Category
$g > 0.7$	High
$0.3 \leq g \leq 0.7$	Medium
$g < 0.3$	Low

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of flipbooks in analytical chemistry learning using the PjBL model to improve students' critical thinking skills and scientific literacy to support sustainable development goals. Based on the data analysis, including normality tests, homogeneity tests, mean equality tests, independent sample t-tests, and n-gain tests, this study provides significant evidence of the positive effect of using flipbooks on improving students' critical thinking skills and scientific literacy.

The normality test analysis using the Liefors Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test showed that the pretest data in the control and experimental groups were normally distributed. The significance value of 0.216 in both groups, which is greater than 0.05, indicates that the data meets the requirements for parametric statistical analysis. This result confirms that the data distribution is symmetrical and allows the use of advanced analysis techniques. The normality test for the posttest also shows that the data distribution of the control and experimental groups remains normal after treatment. The significance value of 0.216 in both groups strengthens the validity of the data and ensures that the analysis can be carried out correctly.

**Table 2.** Hypothesis Test

Posttest Score	t-count	Sign	Description	Interpretation
Control Group	0.038	0.05	tcount < sign, $H_0$ is rejected	PjBL-based flipbooks are more effective than conventional textbooks in improving critical thinking skills and scientific literacy.
Experimental Group				

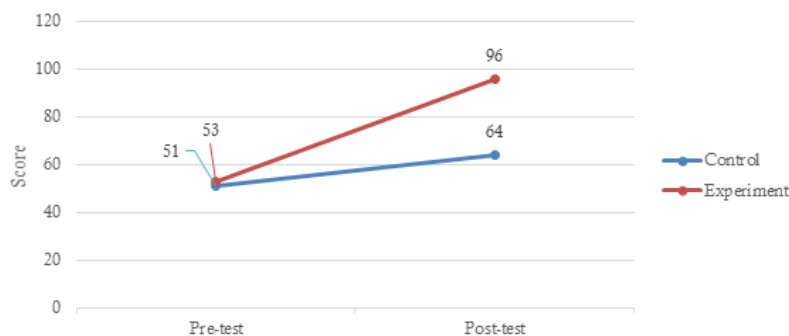
Figure 1 shows that both groups had almost the same initial ability, with an average pretest score of 51 for the control group and 53 for the experimental group. After learning, the average

posttest score increased to 64 for the control group and 96 for the experimental group. This increase indicates that flipbooks provide a more significant contribution to critical thinking skills. The homogeneity test using the ANOVA technique revealed that the data variance between the two groups was the same. A significance value of 0.86 ( $>0.05$ ) indicates no significant difference in the variance between the control and experimental groups. This equality of variance is important to ensure that the comparison results between the two groups are not influenced by factors other than the treatment given. The homogeneity test of the posttest also showed that the variance between the two groups remained homogeneous, with a significance value of 0.074 ( $>0.05$ ). This homogeneity ensures that the comparison of the posttest results between the control and experimental groups is not influenced by differences in variance, thus allowing for an objective evaluation of critical thinking skills.

The pretest mean equality test using an independent sample t-test confirmed no significant difference in mean scores between the experimental and control groups. With a t-value of 0.611 and a significance of 0.05, it was concluded that both groups had equivalent initial abilities.

The first hypothesis test showed that the experimental group achieved a classical passing grade, with a Z value of 0.156, more significant than the significance value of 0.05. The Z value indicates that most students in the experimental group achieved the specified competency standards. The effectiveness of flipbooks compared to conventional textbooks was evaluated using an independent sample t-test, which showed a significant difference between the two groups with a t-value of 0.038 and a significance of less than 0.05 (Table 2). This finding indicates that flipbooks have a more significant impact on improving critical thinking skills than conventional textbooks.

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**Figure 1.** Students' Pretest and Posttest Scores on the Critical Thinking and Scientific Literacy Test

Based on Figure 1, an n-gain test was conducted. The n-gain analysis showed that the experimental group had a higher increase in critical thinking skills than the control group. With an n-gain of 0.9 (high category) in the experimental group and 0.63 (medium category) in the control group, this difference reflects the effectiveness of flipbooks in helping students understand the material better.

This model encourages students to actively participate in learning by completing relevant and challenging projects. The flipbook is a source of information and a tool that facilitates understanding and applying concepts in real contexts. Interactive learning experiences can increase student engagement and overall critical thinking skills (Hensley, 2024; Lees-Murdock et al., 2024).

One of the main advantages of these flipbooks is their ability to help students memorize concepts and understand and apply them in broader situations. Students who engage in project-based learning tend to have a better understanding of the material they are learning because they can see the relevance between theory and practice (Haryanti et al., 2024; Haswan et al., 2024; Winarko, 2024). These results align with the finding that project-based learning can improve critical thinking skills and problem-solving abilities, which are very important in higher education (Arga, 2024). Thus, analytical chemistry flipbooks contribute to the achievement of student-centered learning goals, where students are encouraged to be more active and independent in their learning process (Adawiah et al., 2024).

Using technology in flipbooks also plays an important role in improving students' understanding of the material. Technology allows the integration of interactive elements, such as videos, animations, and simulations, which can enrich students' learning experiences (Handayani & Nurhamidah, 2024; Wang & Sitthiworachart, 2024). The use of technology in education can increase students' engagement and motivation (Afshar et al., 2024; Etemi et al., 2024). By utilizing technology, this flip book meets learning

needs and supports sustainable development goals, especially in quality education and learning based on 21st-century skills (Jha et al., 2020). These results suggest that flipbooks can effectively prepare students to face the challenges of increasingly complex careers.

These flipbooks also provide an opportunity for students to learn collaboratively. In the context of PjBL, collaboration between students is essential to develop social and communication skills needed in the workplace. Social interaction in learning can improve students' understanding and skills (Arga, 2024). By working together on projects, students not only learn from the material but also from the experiences and perspectives of their peers, which can enrich the overall learning process. Therefore, integrating flipbooks with the PjBL model can create a more inclusive and collaborative learning environment (Hussein et al., 2024; None et al., 2024).

Furthermore, implementing flipbooks in the PjBL model can increase students' learning motivation. When students are involved in relevant and interesting projects, they tend to be more motivated to actively participate in the learning process (Celik, 2024). High motivation is positively related to better critical thinking skills, so it is important to create engaging and challenging learning experiences for students (Jirapanthong, 2020; Kurniasari, 2023).

Using illustrations in textbooks has proven effective in improving students' understanding (Sari, 2020). Visually appealing illustrations can help students understand complex concepts in chemistry, thereby increasing their motivation and interest in learning. Sari and Hasibuan (2023) emphasized that digital illustration media can improve students' critical thinking skills. This statement aligns with the finding that using graphic illustrations in learning can make content easier to understand (Movsisyan et al., 2021; Nonthamand, 2024; Reyes & Villanueva, 2024; Anugrahno & Nugrahanta, 2024).

This study showed that the use of illustration-based flipbooks in learning analytical chemistry, integrated with a project-based learning model, significantly improved students' critical thinking skills

and scientific literacy. These results are in line with the findings that visual illustrations in textbooks are effective in improving student understanding (Sari, 2020). Visually appealing illustrations help students understand complex chemical concepts, increasing their motivation and interest in learning (Movsisyan et al., 2021; Anugrahno & Nugrahanta, 2024). In addition, digital illustration media is proven to improve students' critical thinking skills (Sari & Hasibuan, 2023; Nonthamand, 2024; Reyes & Villanueva, 2024).

The integration of PjBL in this flipbook provides a real context for students to apply their knowledge. PjBL has been shown to improve science process skills collaboration, and communication (Almuhammadi, 2024). This approach encourages students' active engagement in learning, which results in a deeper understanding of the material and increased motivation to learn (Alotaibi, 2024; Hidayati et al., 2024; Irdalisa et al., 2024). PjBL's focus on developing critical thinking, social, and emotional skills is highly relevant to the needs of 21st century education (Nasbey et al., 2024).

This research makes a new contribution by integrating interactive illustrations in flipbooks with the PjBL model in the context of analytical chemistry. In contrast to previous studies that focus more on the use of static illustrations or PjBL separately, this study shows that the combination of both creates a more holistic and effective learning experience. Interactive flipbooks allow students to explore chemical concepts visually and independently, while PjBL provides an opportunity to apply that knowledge in real projects (Hidayati et al., 2024).

Given the limitations of illustration technology-based flipbooks, such as limited interactivity and dependence on hardware, future research needs to explore the socio-demographic characteristics of students who are best suited to this technology. For example, research could identify whether students with visual learning styles or students who have better access to technology benefit more from using these flipbooks. Identifying specific student populations that benefit from these flipbooks would provide valuable insights for educators and policy makers (Fatholah et al., 2024).

This study has some limitations. First, the use of purposive sampling limits the generalizability of the results. Future research could use random sampling techniques to improve population representation. Second, this study only measured critical thinking skills and scientific literacy. Future research can explore the impact of flipbooks on other aspects, such as learning motivation, attitude towards chemistry, and problem solving skills. Third, this study did not explore the interaction between student characteristics and

flipbook effectiveness. Future research can use a more complex research design to identify factors that moderate flipbook effectiveness (Zhong et al., 2024).

In addition, future research could explore the use of more advanced technologies in flipbooks, such as augmented reality (AR) or virtual reality (VR), to enhance interactivity and student engagement. Research could also explore the use of flipbooks in online or blended learning contexts, as well as their impact on collaborative learning.

This study provides empirical evidence on the effectiveness of illustration-based flipbooks and PjBL in improving students' critical thinking skills and scientific literacy. By addressing the limitations of this study and exploring future research directions, we can develop more innovative and effective learning approaches to improve the quality of chemistry education (Wilson et al., 2024).

## CONCLUSION

This study concluded that Project-Based Learning-based flipbooks were significantly more effective than conventional textbooks in improving students' critical thinking skills and scientific literacy. Statistical tests showed that the data were normally distributed (significance value 0.216), homogeneous variance (0.074), and significant differences between the experimental and control groups ( $t = 0.038$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). The increase in n-gain in the experimental group reached 0.9 (high category), compared to 0.63 (moderate category) in the control group. These findings support using the results of this study confirmed the superiority of PjBL-based flipbooks in significantly improving students' critical thinking skills and scientific literacy compared to conventional textbooks. Statistical data support (normal distribution, homogeneous variance, significant differences between groups, and high n-gain in the experimental group) encourages the adoption of PjBL-based flipbooks as an effective learning strategy to achieve quality education according to SDG-4. Future research is recommended to expand the implementation of PjBL-based flipbooks to various subjects and levels of education, analyze the most effective design and PjBL elements, compare them with other innovations, conduct long-term studies, and examine the factors that influence their success.

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