



Student Choice and Voice

Use these strategies to provide students with choice within boundaries so that every child feels that their voice is heard in the classroom.

Survey Your Class

In order to build relationships, we need to get to know our students! Find out what your students' interests and passions are, and ask them what it is they want to learn about. By taking an interest inventory of your class, you will find commonalities and outliers amongst your students, and truly get a feel for what it is that motivates them.

Fit Choice into Your Curriculum

Our students learn differently. Let students choose how they learn by fitting choice into your curriculum. Let communal learners work in groups and have individual learners work independently. Allow analytical learners to express learning through graphs and creative learners to draw or perform their learning.

Infograph It!

Instead of having all students write notes or summarize information through written text, give them the choice to draw out their ideas by creating an infograph (a visual image, such as a chart or diagram, that is used to represent information or data).

RAFT

When students are working on a project within a group, have them choose how they want to work through it. First, have each member determine their Role (journalist, interviewer, reporter, etc.). Then, have them identify their Audience. Who will they be presenting their information to? Next, have them determine the Format they will use to demonstrate their learning (brochure, poem, game, advertisement, etc.). Finally, have students choose their Topic. What is it they will be teaching others about?

Give, Get, Go!

We have standards and learning goals that we must teach. So, use these as a springboard for student choice. Give students the learning objective, have them Get the information or resources they need. Then, have them Go to work, by creating or demonstrating their learning in any way they choose—as long as they are meeting that specific goal or objective.



To see a Student Choice and Voice strategy in action, check out this Blue Apple project:

Around the world, millions of talents go to waste because people lack the resources to get started. In 2006, Muhammad Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize for his innovative idea of microlending to help impoverished communities. In this project, students will learn how microlending can be an incredibly powerful force for good. Your class will raise and lend money to entrepreneurs in developing nations who are trying to make a positive impact on the world!



To explore this project and others, visit BlueAppleTeacher.org