Providing students a voice in their learning is critical for making learning meaningful. When students are able to make choices about their learning and participate in instructional decisions, they are more engaged and intrinsically motivated to learn.

- Teachers can promote student choice by allowing student input into which books to read, whether to read aloud or silently, and determining the sequence of activities. As students take responsibility for their learning through well-designed choices, they develop as independent, self-directed learners.

- Products can offer students choice from an array of activities as well as personalization options within the interface. When they are able to be in charge of aspects of their digital learning experiences, students are more likely to sustain Attention on the tasks and, over time, learn the value of making choices that are optimally challenging.

Use It in the Classroom

Watch how this elementary school teacher builds in student choice into her literacy rotations. By allowing students to choose how they use their instructional time, they are able to take ownership of their learning and maintain Motivation to complete the tasks.

About Active Learning

Students retain more and understand more deeply when they actively engage in their learning.

Related Learner Factors

- Language and Literacy (0)
- Cognition (3)
  - Attention
  - Long-term Memory
  - Short-term Memory
- Social and Emotional Learning (3)
  - Emotion
  - Motivation
  - Self-Regulation
- Student Background Information (3)
  - Safety
  - Socioeconomic Status
  - Trauma

Design It into Your Product

Watch how Epic! gives learners the freedom to choose what books they read from their digital library. By offering choice in what they read and how they read, learners maintain engagement and develop a greater love for reading.
Learn More

- Explore the Differentiation Strategy: Student Choice module at Sanford Inspire.
- Explore the Motivation & Autonomy subtopic on Digital Promise’s Research Map.
- Explore the Student Choice and Voice- Common Practices resource at The Learning Accelerator.
- Explore the Student Motivation subtopic on Digital Promise’s Research Map.

References: Student Choice

