Professional Learning Activity: Voice and Choice

Learning Objectives:

- Participants will identify the importance of providing choice to their learners.
- Participants will explore methods for ensuring student voices are incorporated into learning.
- Participants will identify at least one method for increasing student voice and choice in a distance, online learning environment.

Necessary Materials:

- Internet access
- Conversation Notes handout (one per partnership or small group)

Facilitator Email:

Today we are going to discover more about increasing voice and choice for students. To do so, we will follow this research-based professional learning model developed by Learners Edge.

The Learners Edge Professional Learning Model

intention	awareness	investigation	application	reflection
Establish learning goals and explore motivations	Analyze prior knowledge and experience related to the topic	Examine relevant, research-based resources to build connections to the topic	Apply new learning through practical design, implementation, and collaboration	Consider the impact of new learning to influence and transform future professional practice

Watch this quick introductory video to get you thinking about our topic:

[Personalized Learning: Enabling Voice and Choice Through Projects](#)

Now, take a minute to jot down one thing you would like to learn about voice and choice.

It's time to dig into voice and choice more deeply and devise a plan for increasing those opportunities for your students. "Students who believe they have a voice in school are 7x more likely to be academically motivated than students who do not." -Quaglia Institute, 2016

Voice and choice are the easiest components to introduce and use as you start down the path toward personalized learning.

Please complete the following:

1. *Read these blogs on the topic of voice:*
    a. [*Continuum of Voice: What it Means for the Learner*](#)
    b. [Learner Voice Demonstrates Commitment to Building Agency](#)
2. *Watch this video on voice:*
    a. [Why is student voice important in education?](#)
3. *Read this blog on choice:*
    a. [*Choice is More than a Menu of Options*](#)
4. *Watch this video on choice:*
    a. [10 Ways to Empower Students With Choice](#)
5. *Now, take some time to check out these websites and think about how they might help you to increase choice for your learners!*
    a. [Wonderopolis](#)
    b. [Newsela](#)
    c. [Dogonews](#)
    d. [Tween Tribune](#)
6. *Next, watch this webinar for more in-depth information on using technology to increase voice with students:*
    a. [Strategies to Boost Student Voice Using Technology](#)
7. *Draft a quick plan using ONE thing you learned to increase student voice and/or choice in your online, distance learning classroom. Remember, starting small is just fine!*
8. *Lastly, meet virtually with a colleague or small group of your peers to discuss the prompts outlined on the Conversation Notes handout.*

To learn more about voice and choice, check out these learning opportunities from Learners Edge:

[Course 5016: Developing Expert Learners Through Personalized Learning](#)

[PD 122: Personalized Learning-Getting Started](#)

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Conversation Notes:

Discussion Prompts	Notes
Share the learning goal you had for this activity.	
What do you already know about student voice and/or choice? What more do you want to know? How do you plan to find out?	
Share one takeaway from the articles, videos or tutorials you watched that will positively impact your professional practice.	
How will you implement ONE thing you learned to increase student voice and/or choice in your online, distance learning classroom?	
How will increasing voice and/or choice positively impact your students? You as a teacher? The community?	