

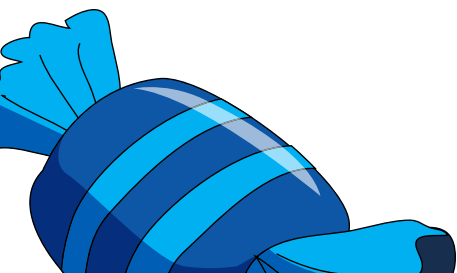


Voice & Choice in the Classroom

Teacher Implementation Toolkit

Contents

1. What is Voice & Choice?
2. Why Voice & Choice Powers Learning
3. Quick Start: 5 Ways to Add Choice This Week
4. The Voice & Choice Spectrum
5. Choice Boards: Your Planning Template
6. Pixton for Voice & Choice
7. Implementation Strategies by Subject
8. Student Reflection Tools
9. Assessment Strategies that Honor Choice
10. Managing Common Challenges
11. Building Student Capacity for Choice
12. Getting Started Action Plan
13. Voice & Choice Self-Assessment for Teachers
14. Resources for Continued Growth



1. What is Voice & Choice?

Student Voice = Students have opportunities to express their perspectives, share their thinking, and contribute to classroom decisions.

Student Choice = Students have options in how they learn, what they learn, and how they demonstrate their understanding.



2. Why Voice & Choice Powers Learning

When students have agency in their learning, powerful things happen:

Increased Engagement:

Students invest more deeply when they have ownership over their learning journey. Choice activates intrinsic motivation—the kind that sustains effort even when tasks become challenging.

Better Retention:

When students can connect their learning to their interests and learning preferences, they form stronger neural pathways and retain content for longer.

Develops Critical Thinking:

Making choices about learning requires students to analyze options, consider consequences, and reflect on effectiveness—all higher-order thinking skills.

Builds Self-Regulation:

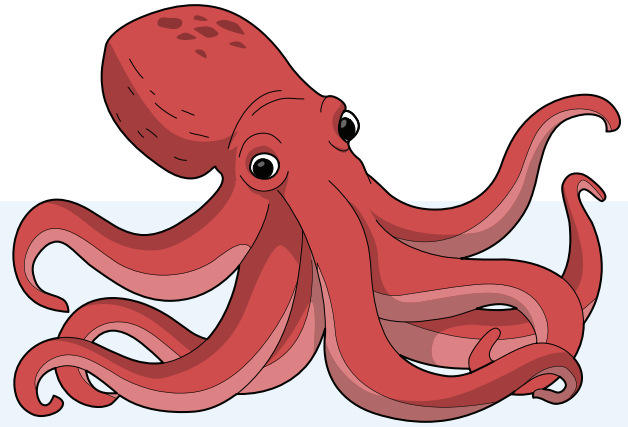
Students who practice making learning decisions develop metacognitive skills and become better at managing their own growth.

Prepares Students for the Real World:

Outside of school, success requires the ability to identify problems, explore solutions, and adapt approaches—exactly what voice and choice develops.

The key insight: Choice isn't about making things easier—it's about making learning more personally meaningful and academically effective.





3. Quick Start: 5 Ways to Add Choice This Week

1. Assignment Format Choice

Instead of: "Write a paragraph about..."

Try: "Show your understanding of... through making a comic, writing, drawing, recording a video, creating a poster, or another format you choose."



2. Reading Choice

Instead of: Everyone reads the same text

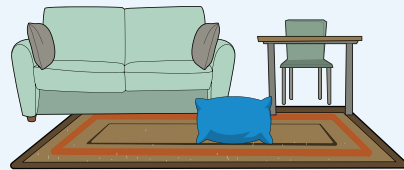
Try: Offer 3-4 texts on the same topic at different reading levels or from different perspectives



3. Seating & Environment Choice

Instead of: Assigned seats only

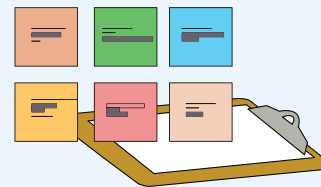
Try: Flexible seating options—desks, floor cushions, standing areas, quiet corners



4. Learning Pace Choice

Instead of: Everyone moves at the same speed

Try: "Must do, may do, aspire to do" task lists that allow students to work at their own pace



5. Topic Choice Within Standards

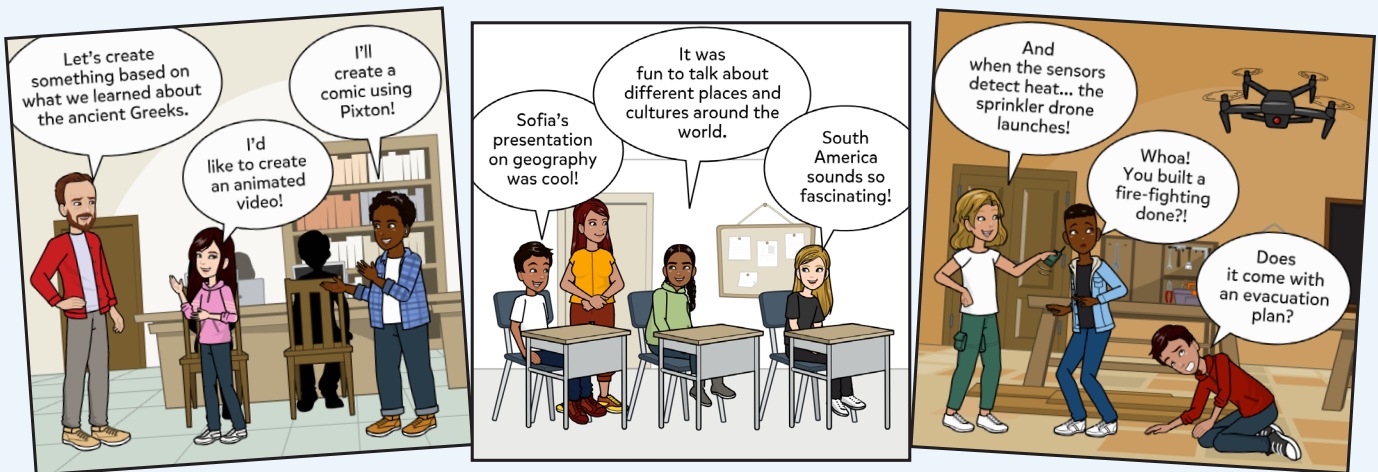
Instead of: Teacher picks all topics

Try: "Today we're learning about fractions. Choose whether to explore fractions in cooking, sports statistics, or art projects."





4. The Voice & Choice Spectrum



Teacher-Centered

Student Agency

Student-Centered

Level 1:

Getting Started (Low Risk, High Impact)

- Multiple format options for assignments
- Choice in reading materials
- Flexible seating arrangements
- Student input on classroom rules
- Topic preferences within required curriculum

Level 2:

Building Confidence (Moderate Changes)

- Student-led discussions and presentations
- Choice in learning sequence (which unit to study first)
- Self-assessment opportunities (Pixton Interactive Rubric)
- Student goal-setting conferences (See Pixton Lesson Ideas on goal setting)
- Collaborative project role selection

Level 3:

Full Integration (Transformative Practice)

- Student-designed learning projects
- Peer teaching opportunities
- Student participation in curriculum planning
- Student-led parent conferences
- Choice in assessment methods and timing



5. Choice Boards: Your Planning Template

Option 1: Style Choice Board

Visual	Auditory	Kinesthetic
Create a diagram, chart, or infographic	Record a podcast or presentation	Build a model or act it out
Design a poster or comic	Lead a group discussion	Create a hands-on demonstration
Make a mind map or flowchart	Write and perform a song	Design a game or simulation

Option 2: Multiple Intelligence Choice Board

Verbal/Linguistic	Logical/Mathematical	Visual/Spatial
Write, speak, debate	Analyze, calculate, solve	Draw, design, visualize
Musical/Rhythmic	Bodily/Kinesthetic	Interpersonal
Compose, sing, rhythm	Move, build, touch	Collaborate, teach, share
Intrapersonal	Naturalistic	Technology
Reflect, journal, self-assess	Classify, observe, connect	Create digitally, research, present

Option 3: Bloom's Taxonomy Choice Board

Remember & Understand	Apply & Analyze	Evaluate & Create
List, describe, explain	Demonstrate, compare, examine	Judge, design, compose
Summarize, identify, locate	Solve, illustrate, classify	Critique, plan, invent
Define, recognize, recall	Use, show, relate	Assess, build, formulate

6. Pixton for Voice & Choice

Pixton empowers student agency by combining creativity, personalization, and standards-aligned storytelling. Here's how you can use it to support content creation, collaboration, and assessment:

Pixton for Content Creation

Students show understanding by turning learning into comics. With customizable characters and scenes, they can represent any topic in a visual and engaging way.

Examples:

- Retell events from different perspectives
- Visualize math or science concepts
- Create comics to explain processes or ideas

Pixton for Collaboration

Students can co-create comics, give feedback, and build stories together—building teamwork and communication skills in the process.

Examples:

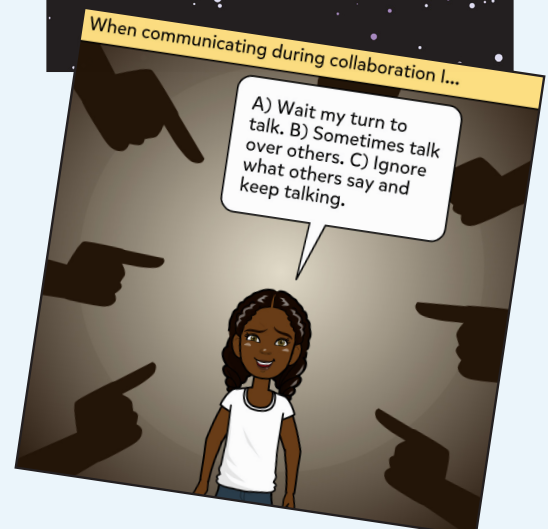
- Group-created comics
- Peer editing of scripts or scenes
- Role-based team storytelling

Pixton for Assessment & Reflection

Comics can serve as both assessment tools and reflection activities. Students show what they know creatively while practicing metacognition.

Examples:

- Comic-based project or unit assessment
- Self-reflection in character
- Annotated panels using Pixton's interactive rubric



7. Implementation Strategies by Subject

Creating a comic is a great option for all of these subjects:



English Language Arts

Voice Opportunities:

- Literature circle book selections
- Writing topic choice within genre requirements
- Student-led book recommendations
- Peer editing partnerships

Choice Options:

- Response format (essay, comic, creative project, presentation)
- Reading pace and schedule
- Final project design
- Publishing platform for writing

$5 \times 12 = ?$

Mathematics

Voice Opportunities:

- Problem-solving strategy sharing
- Real-world application examples from student interests
- Explaining thinking through multiple methods
- Student-created word problems

Choice Options:

- Practice problem sets (different difficulty levels)
- Demonstration methods (manipulatives, drawings, technology)
- Project topics that use math skills
- Assessment format preferences



Science

Voice Opportunities:

- Hypothesis formation and testing
- Scientific question development
- Lab procedure modifications
- Results interpretation and discussion

Choice Options:

- Investigation topics within unit themes
- Data collection methods
- Presentation format for findings
- Extension activities and research



Social Studies

Voice Opportunities:

- Perspective-taking from historical viewpoints
- Current events connections and opinions
- Cultural sharing and experiences
- Debate and discussion leadership

Choice Options:

- Research topics within time periods
- Primary source selections
- Final project formats
- Role-playing and simulation participation



8. Student Reflection Tools

Daily Choice Reflection

Name

Date

1. What choice did you make in your learning today?

2. How did having this choice affect your engagement or understanding?

3. If you could change one thing about today's learning experience, what would it be?



8. Student Reflection Tools

Weekly Voice Check-In

Name

Date

This week, I felt my voice was heard when:

I wish I had more input on:

My learning goal for next week is:

One way the teacher could support my voice and choice:

9. Assessment Strategies That Honor Choice

Portfolio Assessment

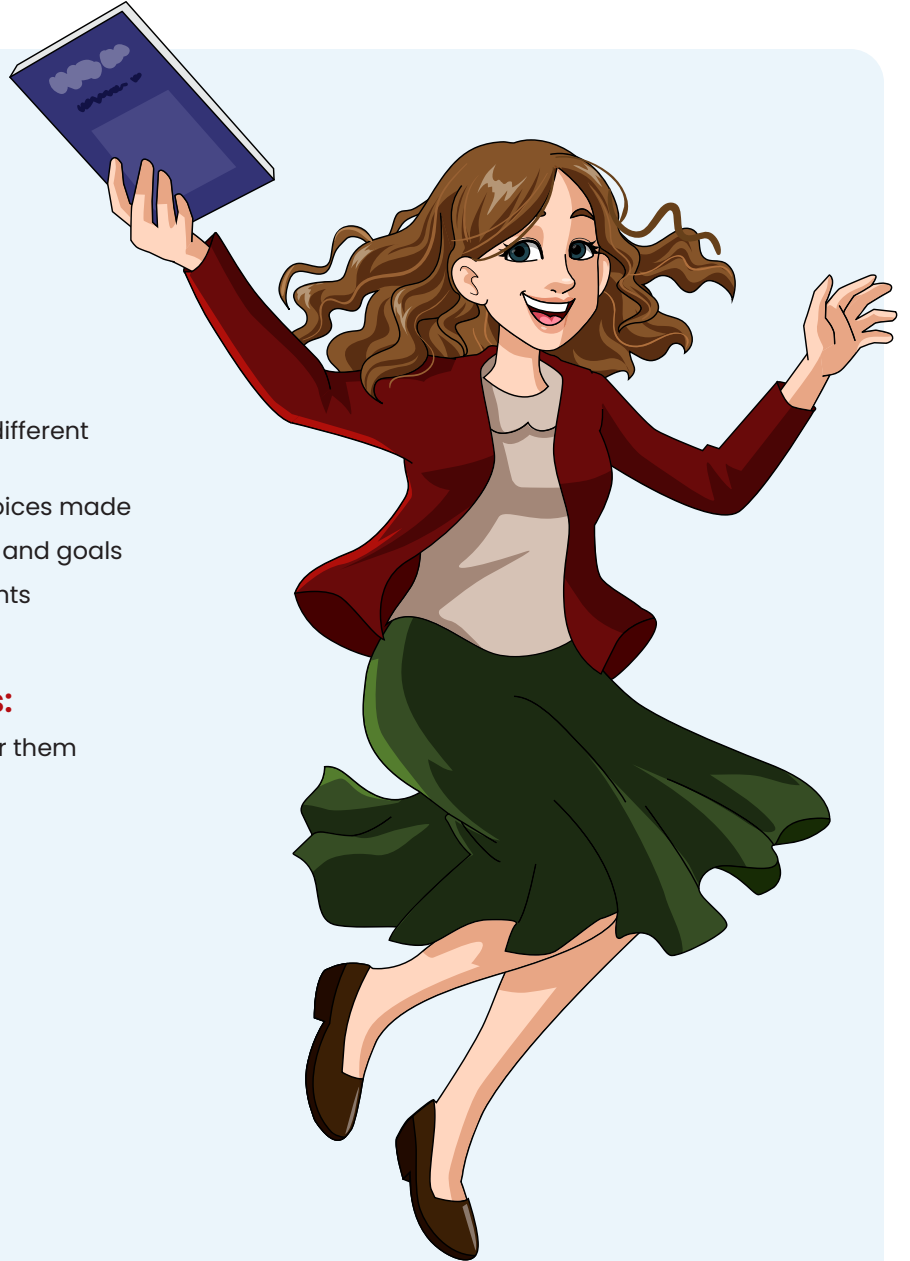
- Students collect work samples across different formats
- Include reflection pieces explaining choices made
- Regular conferences to discuss growth and goals
- Student-led sharing of portfolio highlights

Flexible Demonstration Options:

- Traditional tests for students who prefer them
- Project-based alternatives
- Oral presentations or defenses
- Creative demonstrations
- Peer teaching opportunities

Self-Assessment Integration:

- Student goal-setting at unit beginning
- Mid-unit check-ins and adjustments
- Final self-evaluation with evidence
- Action planning for future learning



10. Managing Common Challenges

"Choice is overwhelming for some students."

Solution: Start with 2-3 options, provide clear criteria, offer guided choice for students who need it

"It takes too much planning time."

Solution: Begin with one subject, reuse successful choice boards, and involve students in creating options

"Students always pick the 'easy' option."

Solution: Provide options with equal rigor, focus on different learning styles rather than difficulty levels

"How do I grade fairly across different formats?"

Solution: Assess the learning standard regardless of the format chosen

"Parents worry it's not rigorous enough."

Solution: Emphasize that standards remain the same, share examples of high-quality work in various formats



11. Building Student Capacity for Choice

Teaching Decision-Making Skills

- **Start Small:** Begin with low-stakes choices
- **Model Thinking:** Show how you make educational decisions
- **Provide Criteria:** Give students frameworks for good choices
- **Reflect Together:** Discuss what worked and what didn't
- **Gradually Release:** Increase choice complexity over time



Student Voice Development Progression

Beginning

"Which of these three options appeals to you?"

Developing

"How would you like to show your understanding of this concept?"

Proficient

"What questions do you have about this topic that we should explore?"

Advanced

"How can we design this learning experience to meet everyone's needs?"

12. Getting Started Action Plan

Week 1: Assess Current Practice

- ☐ Complete the Voice & Choice Self-Assessment (next page)
- ☐ Survey students about their learning preferences
- ☐ Identify one area to add choice this week

Week 2: Try One Strategy

- ☐ Implement one choice option from the "Quick Start" list
- ☐ Gather student feedback
- ☐ Reflect on what worked

Week 3: Expand Gradually

- ☐ Add a second choice strategy
- ☐ Begin using student reflection tools
- ☐ Document student responses and engagement

Week 4: Build Systems

- ☐ Create your first choice board
- ☐ Establish routines for student voice activities
- ☐ Plan next steps for expansion



13. Voice & Choice Self-Assessment for Teachers

Rate each area: Never(1) Rarely(2) Sometimes(3) Often(4) Always(5)

Student Voice:

- Students contribute to classroom rules and procedures _____
- Students share their thinking and reasoning regularly _____
- Students have input on topics within curriculum requirements _____
- Students participate in goal-setting for their learning _____
- Students provide feedback on teaching and classroom practices _____

Student Choice:

- Students can choose from multiple ways to demonstrate learning _____
- Students have options in reading materials or resources _____
- Students can work at their own pace when appropriate _____
- Students choose their own learning goals within standards _____
- Students select their preferred learning environment/seating _____

Reflection & Growth:

- Students regularly reflect on their learning choices _____
- Students self-assess their progress toward goals _____
- Students participate in conferences about their learning _____
- Students can articulate why they made certain choices _____
- Students take ownership of their learning journey _____

Total Score:

_____ 75

65–75: You're a Voice & Choice champion! Focus on deepening & refining your practice.

50–64: You're well on your way! Choose 2–3 areas for focused growth.

35–49: You have a solid foundation. Pick one category to develop this month.

Below 35: Perfect starting point! Begin with small changes and build gradually.

14. Resources for Continued Growth

Professional Learning

- Student voice and choice research articles
- Professional learning communities focused on student agency
- Conferences and workshops on learner-centered practices
- Social media groups for sharing strategies

Student Resources

- Choice-making frameworks and graphic organizers
- Self-advocacy skill development materials
- Goal-setting templates and progress trackers
- Peer feedback and collaboration protocols

Family Communication

- Newsletter templates explaining voice and choice benefits
- Home extension activities that honor student preferences
- Parent conference guides for discussing student agency
- Family feedback forms on student growth and engagement



Remember: Voice and choice isn't about giving students complete freedom—it's about creating meaningful opportunities for them to have agency in their learning while still meeting essential standards and objectives.

Start small. Be consistent. Celebrate growth. Your students' increased engagement and ownership will make the journey worthwhile!