



THINKING STRATEGIES **CONSOLIDATE, COMMUNICATE & TAKE ACTION**

TOPIC: CHOICE BOARDS AND MENUS

WHAT IS IT: Choice boards and menus promote student motivation and encourage student autonomy by providing them with opportunities to choose how they will demonstrate their understanding through different modalities, tasks and activities. Students may be required to complete a set number of tasks or activities that are intentionally designed to present different aspects of a concept in order to offer insight into their breadth and depth of knowledge in that particular concept.

WHY USE THE STRATEGY:

- Easy and simple to design & implement
- Increase student autonomy & efficacy
- Stimulate engagement & motivation
- Promote independence
- Represent student interests
- Multiple entry points
- Self-differentiation for students

HOW TO USE:

Choice boards and menus can be designed to cohesively cover a concept, learning goal or outcome. Tasks and activities are structured to stimulate learning, practice and mastery of the expected outcome. Choice boards and menus intentionally offer opportunities for students to enter into learning and build understanding at the level they are ready for.

First identify the concept, academic goal, or outcome(s) that will be achieved

Second, design tasks and activities that provide a variety of modalities, mediums, or methods for learning and demonstrating understanding of the concept or outcome.

Lastly consider student interests, preferences and levels of readiness.

MODIFICATIONS:

Choice boards and menus can be modified by designing activities with different levels of complexity.

Choice Boards:

- Tic-tac-toe/checker boards in which complexity and difficulty levels are arranged by rows and columns. Students choose a set number from each.
- Free choice square can boost student choice.

Menu Tasks:

- Negotiable: Each student must select one (appetizer / side dish).
- Imperative: Every student must complete (main dish) .
- Optional: Bonus tasks that are highly motivating (desserts).

ASSESSMENT TIPS:

- Students must complete required tasks/activities in each menu section or a certain number from the choice board.
- Incorporate self-assessment and revision/editing tasks as part of the choices or options.
- Choice boards and menus can be used to review previously covered concepts and content.

WITHIN THE CURRICULUM:

Choice boards and menus can be used in all subject areas and at all levels from K-12. Once a specific concept or goal has been identified, there is a vast number of choices and opportunities regarding how understanding can be attained and demonstrated (Math, Science, Social Studies, ELA, CTF classes, PE classes, Art, etc.)