

Choose (and Track!) Your Own Adventure



ACTIVE LEARNING
FOCUS

SINGLE SESSION – Exploring Student-Facing Tools to Support Flexible Path and Pacing

SESSION PREP

SESSION GOALS

After you lead this session, participants will be able to:

- Discuss the purpose, implementation, and benefits of tools such as playlists, progress trackers, and choice boards to facilitate personalized learning through flexible path and pacing.
- Understand the different structure and function of each type.
- Make a plan to use one or more of these tools in their classroom.

HOW TO PREPARE

1. Preview the [directions](#) for the activity and decide whether you would like to change the number of activities required for completion of the choice board.
2. Review the suggested [takeaways](#) and follow-up. Edit for your needs.
3. Once you have edited the directions as you see fit, share [electronic](#) access to the [“Choose \(and Track!\) Your Own Adventure”](#) activity and make sure participants will have access during the session. The playlist contains active hyperlinks, so printed copies will not be effective. (Note: They will also need to make their own copies of the progress tracker to take notes as they work.)
4. Make a plan for pacing and collaboration: will participants work...
 - independently, completing this activity asynchronously on their own time before a deadline you set?
 - in pairs or small groups during a synchronous session?
 - in some combination of the above? (Starting together in a synchronous session, finishing independently.)
5. Create a space for sharing notes, ideas, and takeaways. Consider...
 - a virtual collaboration board: use a tool like a [MURAL \(example\)](#), or
 - an in-person strategy: hand out two sticky notes for every participant, along with two large sheets of poster paper that can be hung on the wall (like [this](#)).

SESSION FRAMEWORK

WHOLE GROUP

SAY: What do you think of when you hear the phrase flexible pacing? Chaos? Some students falling behind while others excel? Mountains of disorganized assignments ready for grading?

The flexibility that comes with personalized learning does not - and should not - mean that a classroom should become utter chaos, without clear goals or methods for measuring progress.

Today, you are going to dig into what might be the most important tools in an educator's flexible pacing toolbox: choice boards, playlists, and progress trackers.

These tools set the stage for structured student agency, within boundaries you set. They let students see the way forward, make choices about the pace and direction of their learning, and track their progress.

You can use these to provide flexible pacing toward just a single learning or skill goal - maybe you want to try this out for just one class period. You could also use them to facilitate students' pace and path through an entire unit.

Open the resource I've shared with you titled "Choose (and Track) Your Own Adventure" and follow the directions to work through the playlist of options, marking your progress using the tracker on the second page. [Insert your specific directions about collaboration and pacing for this activity.]

The best way to learn is by doing, so learn about these tools by actually using them. Along the way, you will need to make connections to your students and classroom goals, and brainstorm ways you might use these tools.

TAKEAWAYS

[Suggested] Encourage teachers to share their findings/ideas with the larger group. Ask participants to try out one of the tools with their students over the next two weeks. Schedule an in-person or virtual follow up for participants to share their successes, challenges, and questions.

CHOOSE (AND TRACK) YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

Directions: For each flexible pacing tool, choose **two** options from the playlist to complete. As you complete activities, mark your progress on the tracker that follows. Record your notes and questions in the progress tracker or link a separate document

PLAYLIST

TOOLS	ACTIVITY OPTIONS		
	<p>Option 1: Establish Meaning</p> <p>Read or view one of the resources listed about the purpose, implementation, and benefit of this tool.</p>	<p>Option 2: Identify Patterns</p> <p>Explore 2-3 of the examples of the tool and take note of patterns in structure and functionality. Then, respond to the questions below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do the examples have in common? How do they differ? 2. Which example would you adapt for use with your students? Why? 	<p>Option 3: Reflect & Be Creative</p> <p>Use the questions to reflect on how you'd like to use this tool and brainstorm specific ideas for its use.</p>
Choice Boards	<p>Resources</p> <p>Using Choice Boards to Boost Student Engagement</p> <p>Choice Boards</p> <p>An Introduction to Using Choice Boards</p>	<p>Examples</p> <p>Student Choice Tic Tac Toe</p> <p>Art History Choice Board</p> <p>HMH Choice Board Examples</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How could you use choice boards to facilitate flexible pacing in your classroom? 2. Brainstorm a list of 2-3 topics, concepts, activities, or skills that you could use as the basis for a choice board.
Playlists	<p>Resources</p> <p>Using Playlists to Differentiate Instruction</p> <p>Self-directed learning and playlists</p> <p>Playlist or Individual Rotation Model</p>	<p>Examples</p> <p>WW2 & The Holocaust Playlist</p> <p>Poet of the Day Playlist</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How could you use playlists to facilitate flexible pacing in your classroom? 2. Brainstorm a list of 2-3 topics, concepts, activities, or skills that you could use as the basis for a playlist.
Progress Trackers	<p>Resources</p> <p>Helping Students Track Their Own Progress</p>	<p>Examples</p> <p>Student-facing Progress Trackers</p> <p>Public Progress Trackers</p> <p>Grouped Pacing Tracker</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How could you use progress trackers to facilitate flexible pacing in your classroom? 2. Brainstorm a list of 2-3 topics, concepts, activities, or skills that you could use as the basis for a progress tracker.

PROGRESS TRACKER - MAKE A COPY

Choice Boards	<input type="checkbox"/> Option #____ Notes or Links to Work:	<input type="checkbox"/> Option #____ Notes or Links to Work:
Playlists	<input type="checkbox"/> Option #____ Notes or Links to Work:	<input type="checkbox"/> Option #____ Notes or Links to Work:
Progress Trackers	<input type="checkbox"/> Option #____ Notes or Links to Work:	<input type="checkbox"/> Option #____ Notes or Links to Work:

Get more resources like this at www.opportunityeducation.org/resources