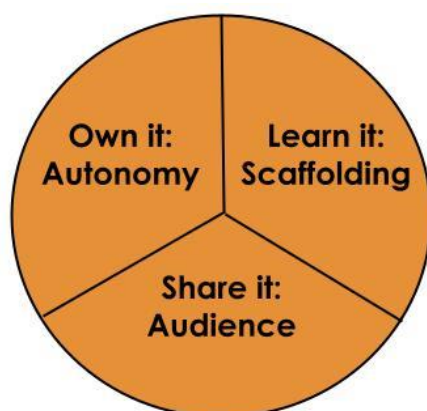# Student-Centered Learning

OSU Motivation in Classrooms Lab – Motivation Minute.

How can I develop a more student-centered classroom?

What is student-centered learning? Student-centered learning is an approach where students create learning opportunities and reconstruct their learning in an open-ended learning environment (Lee & Hannafin, 2016). In this approach, teachers support students in developing autonomy and responsibility by helping students take ownership of their learning by setting and achieving goals (often through an individual or group project). Doing so can improve learning outcomes and classroom functioning (Reeve, 2009).

The "Own it, Learn it, Share it" framework uses **autonomy** to drive students to take ownership of their work, **scaffolding** to support students in mastering the material, and **audience** to encourage students to share their work, all of which motivates students in their academic achievement (Lee & Hannafin, 2016):

Own it: Autonomy
- Help students feel comfortable in their classroom autonomy by showing students that you respect their autonomy and value their individuality.
- Give students opportunities to practice being autonomous by allowing them to explore how course content relates to their personal interests.
- Help students feel autonomous even in imposed activities by explaining the purpose of the activity and how they can use it as an opportunity to explore interests or gain valuable skills.
- Encourage students to achieve course objectives (see Achievement Goals Motivation Minute) to increase academic performance and limit competition and social comparison within the classroom.

Learn it: Scaffolding
- Gradually guide students' thinking to solve problems.
- Support students' efforts to identify relevant goals, pursue and monitor progress (e.g. SMART goals – see Self-regulation Skills MM and Self-Handicapping MM).
- Scaffold step-by-step group projects by encouraging reciprocal student interaction and use of technology (e.g. project-based learning).
- Build students' value of each other and their work by modelling how to respond to others' ideas.
- Help students determine what they know and what they need to learn, and then connect this knowledge with a learning objective.

Share it: Audience
- Ask students to create an artifact (such as a blog, poster, essay, or video) designed for a real audience (such as classmates or the school community).
- Promote interaction between the creator and the audience through activities like gallery walks or through conversations and comments about an artifact.
- Encourage students to interact with their peers' artifacts through activities like discussions, writings, and reflections.

Resources

Lee, E., & Hannafin, M. J. (2016). A design framework for enhancing engagement in student-centered learning: Own it, learn it, and share it. *Educational Technology Research and Development*, 64(4), 707-734. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11423-015-9422-5.

Reeve, J. (2009). Why teachers adopt a controlling motivating style toward students and how they can become more autonomy supportive. *Educational Psychologist*, 44(3), 159-175. https://doi.org/10.1080/00461520903028990.

Rigacci, A. (2022, April 19). *Student-centered learning: The ultimate guidebook*. Teacheracademy. https://www.teacheracademy.eu/blog/student-centered-learning/

Bogdan, P. (2011, March 29). Student-centered learning environments. Edutopia. https://www.edutopia.org/blog/student-centered-learning-environments-paul-bogdan

OSU Motivation in Classrooms Lab – Motivation Minute

Compiled by Larin Wade, Jati Ariati, and Kody Long