

# Transfer of Responsibility in the Classroom

OSU Motivation in Classrooms Lab – Motivation Minute. April 2023

## What is transfer of responsibility?

Transfer of responsibility is a crucial component of *scaffolding*. While gradually increasing difficulty of a task is the most common focus of scaffolding, *the withdrawal of adult support* over the period when the student begins to grasp the task is fundamental in the learning experience. The transfer of responsibility involves placing the management of learning on the learner rather than the teacher, allowing the student to become increasingly independent and self-directed.

## Why is transfer of responsibility important?

Transferring responsibility from the teacher to the learner is vital for promoting self-regulated learning behaviors. By gradually placing the management of learning on the learner, they are encouraged to take an active role in their learning process, leading to an increase in their sense of autonomy.

## How can transfer of responsibility be done in the classroom?

Strategies	Implementation
Student-led discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide the students with a discussion framework (e.g., questions, prompts).</li><li>• Establish ground rules (e.g., listen actively, respond respectfully) with student input when appropriate.</li><li>• Let students lead the conversation, with the teacher serving as a facilitator who clarifies or provides additional context as needed.</li><li>• Reflect on the discussion to identify learning, successes, and areas for improvement.</li></ul>
Project-based learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide a list of project options aligned with students' interests.</li><li>• Allow students to work independently or in small groups.</li><li>• Provide guidance and support as needed (e.g., feedback on project proposals, resources, check-ins)</li><li>• Encourage ongoing reflection on their learning throughout the project and the sharing of their final product with the class.</li></ul>
Self-assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide a self-assessment rubric for an assignment.</li><li>• Allow students to identify their own strengths and areas for improvement.</li><li>• Develop a plan for addressing those areas.</li></ul>
Peer teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assign students to small groups.</li><li>• Have them take turns teaching a concept to their peers.</li><li>• Provide opportunities for practice and feedback.</li></ul>

## Resources

Meyer, D. K. (1993). What is scaffolded instruction? Definitions, distinguishing features, and misnomers. *National Reading Conference Yearbook*, 42, 41-53.

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