

## Offering Choices When Appropriate: Assignment Submissions

Choice is motivating. Students tend to take more ownership over their learning and perform better when they are offered choices in assignments and tasks. Although it is important to avoid overwhelming students with too many options and not enough guidance, providing them with the opportunity to choose among topics or assignments that you select can be an inspiring experience. Keep in mind that it is not necessary or advisable to provide choice in every assignment or task.

### Sample Varied Choices for Assignment Submissions

There are multiple opportunities for making choices available to students in online courses. Allowing students to choose how they will submit assignments can be engaging and can encourage students to try different approaches. Below are some examples.

#### Discussion Prompts

- Provide students with a choice of how to respond to discussion prompts.
  - Students can write a response in the discussion forum.
  - Students can upload an audio or video file of their own creation as a response to a discussion prompt or reply to a fellow student.
- Provide directions for using the audio or video software that is compatible with your LMS. You may want to consider requiring students to use this software for at least one discussion post early in the course so you can help them troubleshoot if necessary.

#### Assignment Submission

- Provide students with a choice of format when they complete an assignment.
  - For example, in an online journalism course, the instructor allows students to present an interview in a video or audio format, or as a text document. Students are asked to include an explanation of why their format was the best medium for the content, audience, and purpose of the interview.
- Provide students with the option to combine formats for an assignment, such as a written introduction to an audio or video file.