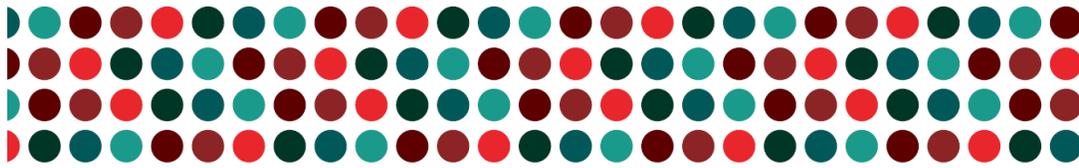


A Learners Edge Guide to Success

Increasing Student Voice Using Tech Tools



**LEARNERS
EDGE**



Figuring out how to best leverage technology to create an inclusive classroom and teach students to be agents of their own learning can be a very difficult task. As teachers, we are striving to use technology to amplify students thoughts, feelings, and opinions, thereby increasing motivation and academic achievement. After reading this Learners Edge Guide to Success, we guarantee that you will walk away with some simple ideas to begin successfully weaving tech tools into your existing lessons.

What is 'Student Voice' and How Does it Impact Learning?

Student voice can take many forms:



- Self-Expression
- Feedback
- Opinion
- Self-Determination
- Representation
- Empowerment
- Choice
- Reflection

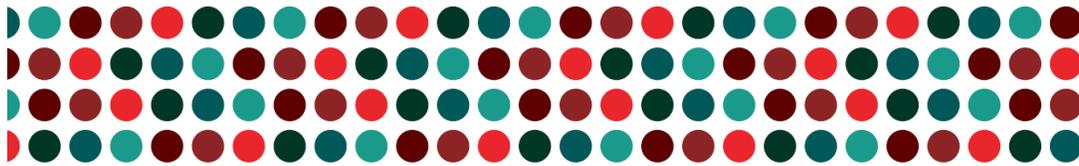
"Students who believe they have a voice in school are 7x more likely to be academically motivated than students who do not." (Quaglia Institute, 2016)

Positive impact of student voice:

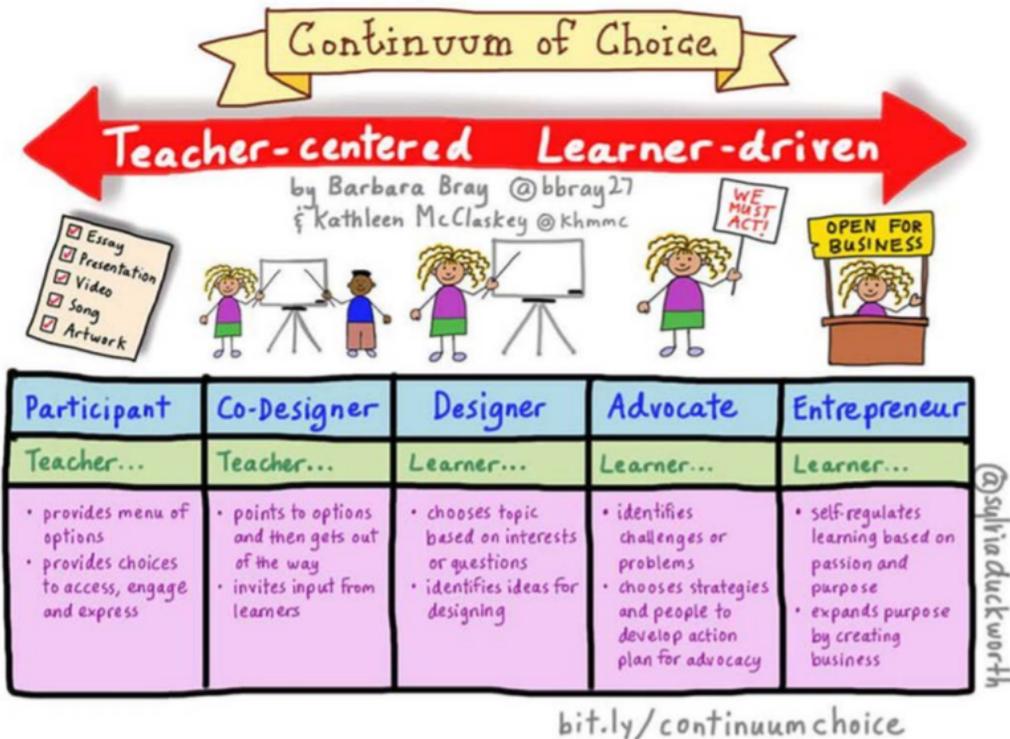
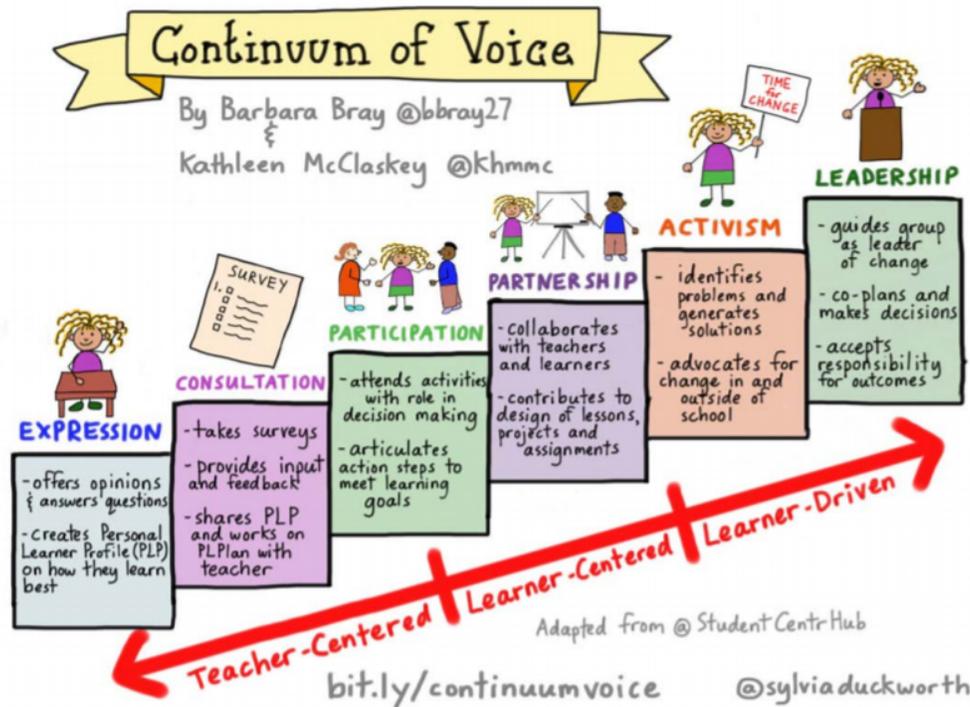
- Greater classroom participation
- Decreased behavior problems
- Elevated achievement in marginalized student populations
- Better self-reflection in struggling students
- Enhanced school reform efforts

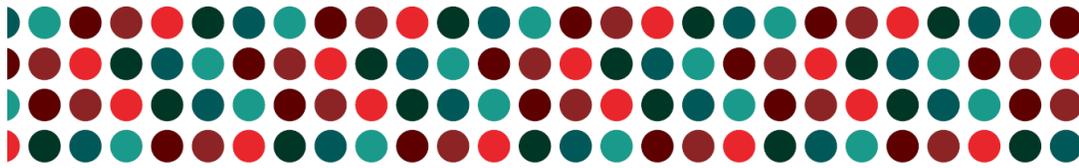
Reference:

School Voice Report. Quaglia Institute for School Voice and Aspirations, 2016, School Voice Report, quagliainstitute.org/dmsView/School_Voice_Report_2016.



Student Voice





Making the shift from student engagement to empowerment:



How can technology help?

Student voice is about working collaboratively with students. We can leverage the use of technology to focus on getting students to curate their own personalized learning, and amplify their voices in innovative ways.

Low tech strategies:

- Brainstorming
- Exit slips
- Turn and talk
- Think, pair, share
- Fake Twitter accounts
- Sticky note parking lots
- Voting

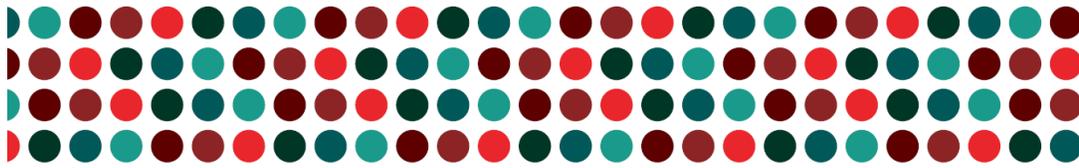
High tech tools:

- Flipgrid
- Screencastify
- Padlet
- Adobe Spark

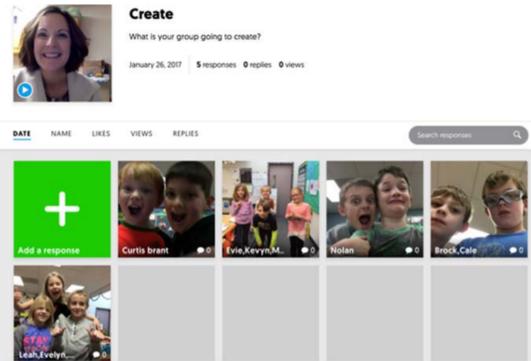


padlet





FLIPGRID



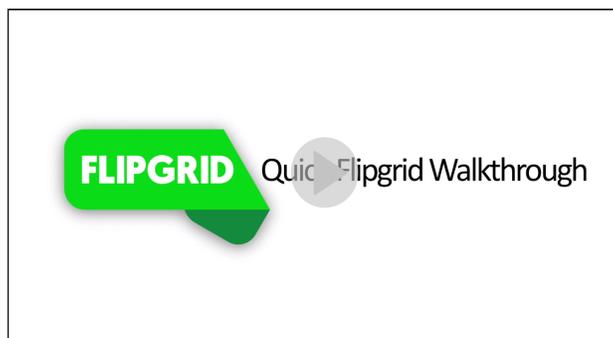
WHAT: Flipgrid is a simple video discussion platform. Teachers create a grid, then add a topic to spark discussion. Students respond to the prompt, and each other, with short videos.

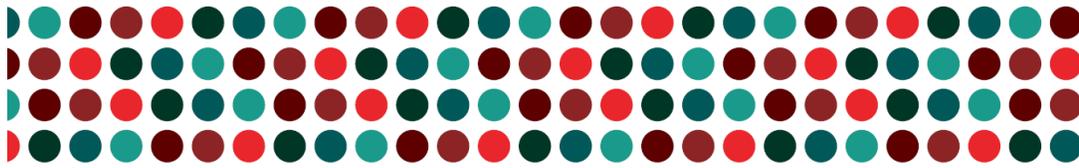
HOW: This tool provides students the opportunity to express thoughts, feelings, and opinions on curriculum topics. Flipgrid allows students to move beyond the four walls of the classroom to connect with other classes, schools, or the greater community. This authentic medium for connection creates motivation.

COST: FREE for all educators!

★ **Classroom Connection:** My students often record short "In My Own Words" videos that recap what they've learned in class. I challenge them to use lesson vocabulary and this helps them to solidify their understanding of the concepts whether it's math, science, social studies or reading.

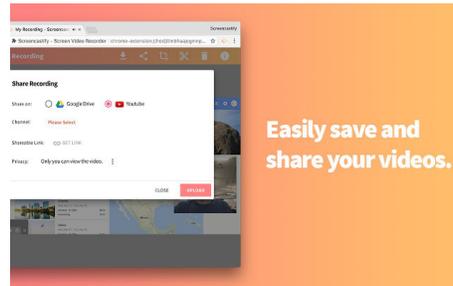
Watch a demo now!





Screencastify

WHAT: Screencastify is an easy video creation tool that records from your webcam or captures your screen activity.



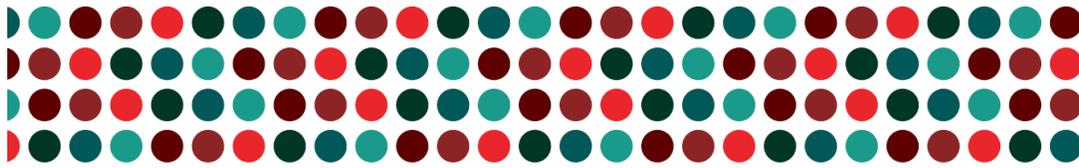
HOW: Screencastify allows students to narrate stories, explain their thinking, or show a process. It integrates seamlessly with the Chrome browser, and videos are uploaded straight to Google Drive or YouTube.

COST: Lite - FREE; Premium - \$24/year/user; School & District prices are also available online.

★ Classroom Connection: As a 3rd grade teacher, I used Screencastify in conjunction with Slides to ease the stress of public speaking. Instead of standing up in front of the classroom, they recorded their presentation on historical figures such as Helen Keller or Ruby Bridges and we shared the recordings with the class. This approach created less nerves and gave even my quietest students the opportunity to shine.

Watch a demo now!





WHAT: Padlet is an online virtual "bulletin" board, where students can collaborate, reflect, and respond.



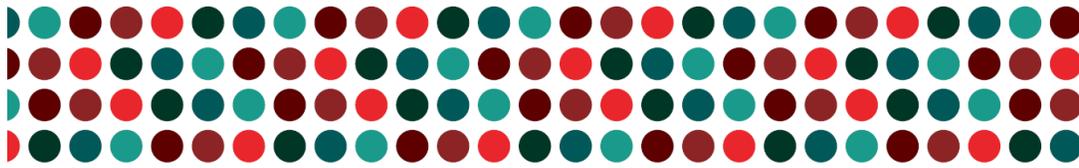
HOW: Create a page, then share the link. Students write on sticky notes adding pictures, videos, and even reactions (likes, favorites, ratings, etc). Padlet is great for gathering and sharing ideas, soliciting feedback, or brainstorming solutions to an issue.

COST: Try it FREE for 30 days, plans starting at \$12/month after 30 days.

★ **Classroom Connection:** While taking in a presentation, movie or lecture, my students add notes to a collaborative Padlet board. This allows each student to contribute different perspectives and add multimedia components such as drawings, videos, images, links and audio recordings. This backchannel is a great way to spark deeper thinking and creativity.

Watch a demo now!





WHAT: Students can turn their voice into stunning visuals with Adobe's suite of free tools.

HOW: Adobe Page-- Bring text, video and photos to life with a beautiful slideshow, or fluid webpage. Classroom Uses: digital portfolio, visual storytelling, microblogging.



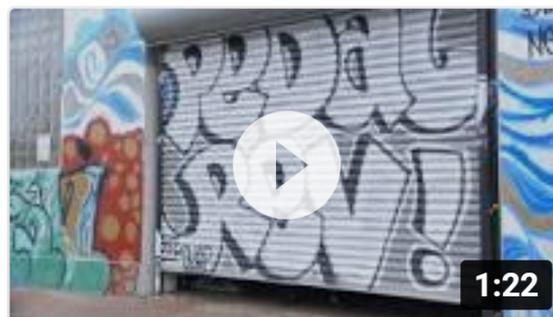
Adobe Video-- Create and share engaging multimedia videos. Classroom Uses: video tutorials, reflection of learning, persuasive pieces.

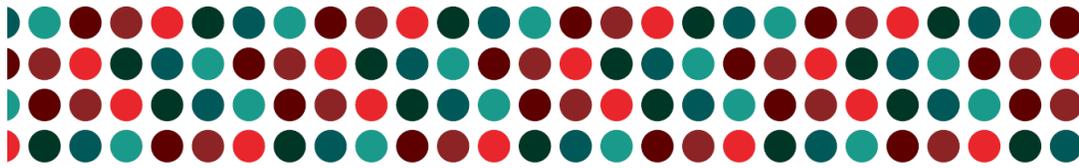
Adobe Post-- Turn a photo and text into a professional looking graphic. Classroom Uses: posters, infographics, visual explanations.

COST: Spark - FREE; Spark Premium for Individuals - \$9.99/month; Spark Premium for Teams - \$19.99/month per license

★ **Classroom Connection:** I like to incorporate Adobe Spark into my science labs. As students are conducting the lab, they'll collect artifacts such as photos, video, and data. Then, they work collaboratively to create a video presentation documenting their process-- hypothesis, procedure steps, results, analysis, and conclusion that includes the artifacts they've gathered.

Watch a demo now!





Learners Edge

Explore some of our 3-credit graduate level courses that can further your knowledge on technology in the classroom and student voice:

- [5834: Bringing Your Classroom Online: Best Practices to Get You There](#)
- [5835: Create and Captivate: Using Online Presentations to Teach](#)
- [5016: Developing Expert Learners Through Personalized Learning](#)
- [5856: Project Based Learning: Create, Collaborate, and Innovate](#)
- [5093: Digital Tools in the Connected Classroom](#)
- [806: Digital Citizenship in the Classroom](#)

While you're here, take a look at some of our great blog posts on our Chalk Blog as well:

- [How to Increase Student Engagement with Flipgrid Fever](#)
- [Personalized Learning: Creating Student Choice](#)
- [Technology Trends in Education](#)
- [Personalized Learning w/ Hyperdocs](#)
- [Technology for Teachers: Google Keep - A Busy Teacher's Best Friend](#)



For more information about our courses, visit us at www.learnersedge.com

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