

Plus One – Design for Choice in Assessment/Action and Expression

Title

Design for Choice in Assessment/Action and Expression

Brief description

By providing students with choice in terms of *what* they are assessed on, we empower them, and allow them to focus on what engages them. Students have different sets of skills and competencies to demonstrate their knowledge. To minimise barriers and maximise learning, choice should be part of the curriculum.

By providing choice in terms of *how* students are assessed we cater to a broader range of learning preferences and reduce barriers to action and expression. Choice can begin with topic options within the assignment. This is the baseline for offering choice. Other ways of providing choice include:

- allowing students to work in groups and collaborate or to work alone
- students picking their own text/subject/object/artefact on which to be assessed
- choices between creating an essay, vlog, blog, presentation, podcast, poster, sales pitch, concept maps, learning journal, portfolio, drama and so forth.

With all of these choices, it will be important to consider the use of rubrics, as well as scaffolding the learning around the importance of process and not just the product.

Mapping to UDL Principles



Engagement

- Students engage more when they feel involved in decision making



Representation

- Possible multiple means of delivering assessment



Action and Expression

- Choice of action and expression empowers students and allows them to play to their strengths as well as develop other skills

Three ways this Plus One helps students

Students can

1. feel empowered by making choices
2. orient towards material that they find most engaging
3. play to their strengths in terms of methods and modes of action and expression/assessment.

Key considerations for enactment

Risk

Low

Time

Investment in creating diverse modes of assessment; explaining and staging the assessment so that the steps are clear for students; creation of rubrics/scaffolding

Technology

VLE

Further information

See [CAST UDL Guidelines](#) and [Maynooth University Plus One resources](#).

Maynooth University has a comprehensive [Assessment and Feedback hub](#) of resources which colleagues could consult if they are looking for information on different approaches to assessment, assessment principles, feedback and feedback literacy, authentic assessment, using rubrics to promote learning, Generative AI (GenAI) etc.

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