

# Plus One – Providing students with choice of content

## Title

Providing students with choice of content

## Brief description

When asking our students to do independent learning the default mode is to ask them to read. When we want our students to develop knowledge or understanding of a topic we could eliminate barriers for some of our students by offering ways to engage with material that aren't limited by being solely text-based. Offering students a choice of content and content delivery for independent learning for instance through a plain language, an in-depth chapter, a video or a podcast, provides a different mode and level of entry to a topic.

## Mapping to UDL Principles

Offering multiple modes and access points to knowledge addresses the three principles of UDL.



## Engagement

- Students have autonomy on how they engage with the learning. This makes their learning more relevant to them.
- Students can choose their own access point. While the goal remains the same, the offerings provide different levels of information.
- Students become goal-directed in their learning increasing productive time.
- Time spent re-explaining or decoding the information is reduced.





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## Representation

- Students have appropriate access to content. This reduces anxiety, frustration caused by trying to navigate materials not accessible to them which in turn increases the time spent on engaging in the content.
- By providing multiple options, students can begin to generalise their learning.



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## Action and Expression

- Offering multiple options enables students to manage the information and resources in a manner that optimises their learning.
- Students can physically engage in their learning. The choice of text, audio and visual offers the student the added choice of sitting, walking, stretching, whatever helps them process their learning.
- Multiple options results in more peer-learning and feedback as students talk about their chosen material. This expands knowledge and can also encourage students to engage in a second or third offering.

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## Three ways this Plus One helps students

Students can

1. access alternative materials/content. This removes barriers that providing text alone creates for many of our students. This reduces student anxiety, lack of engagement and underachievement.
2. feel their approach to learning is valued, thus increasing their motivation to engage. Having a choice of access points also increases outcomes in terms of assessment.
3. learn more than from just one text option. Students share their learning with each other, generalising their knowledge into their field of study.

## Key considerations for enactment

### Risk

Low

### Time

Moderate at outset. Becomes low.

## Technology

Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) or presentation format to share links, YouTube, podcast platforms, online documents etc.

## Other

It is important that options chosen will support students to engage with and achieve the goal of the lesson. Finding appropriate options can be time consuming. Recommend starting with adding one option first time round and building to a maximum of four. You will find that some of your options remain relevant for long periods while others may need to be reviewed every two to three years.

## Further information

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

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