

Choice Boards (Tic-Tac-Toe)



Description: Tic-Tac-Toe choice boards give students the opportunity to practice skills, demonstrate skills and extend their understanding of concepts

Purpose: Choice boards:

- Allow students choice
- Incorporates learning preferences
- Takes readiness into account (basic and advanced)
- Provides framework

Choice boards address readiness, interest, and learning preferences. They are easily adapted to a subject area.

Steps: (Directions for Students)

1. Identify the outcomes and instructional focus of a unit of study.
2. Use assessment data and student profiles to determine student readiness, learning styles, or interests.
3. Design nine different tasks.
4. Arrange the tasks on a choice board.
5. Select one required task for all students. Place it in the center of the board.
6. Students complete three tasks, one of which must be the task in the middle square. The three tasks should complete a Tic-Tac-Toe row.

Lead-Deadwood High School teachers Kim Fundaun, Laura Shuck, and Brook Kilian developed a choice board for a 9th grade general science unit on heredity and genetics. (See page 7 for their KUD elements.)

Summarize Facts or ideas which are important in determining genetics	Classify Dominant and recessive traits as they relate to Mendel's Pea Plants	Draw Meiosis and mitosis
Predict What a person might look like using the Punnett square	Unit Test	Show A model of a DNA strand with a key
Survey Genetics – hair color, eye color – graph your findings in a chart of your choice (Pie, bar, line, etc.)	Interview A person whose career or hobby deals with genetic/reproduction	Judge 3 websites on genetics and heredity

Adaptations

- Allow students to complete any three tasks – even if the completed tasks don't make a Tic-Tac-Toe.
- Assign students tasked based on readiness.
- Create different choice boards based on readiness (struggling students can work with one choice board and more advanced students have different options).
- Create choice board options based on learning styles or learning preferences. For example, a choice board could include three kinesthetic tasks, three auditory tasks, three visual tasks.
- You could use a board based on Gardner's multiple intelligences, such as this one by author Rick Wormeli.

Interpersonal Task	Kinesthetic Task	Naturalist Task
Logical Task	Student Choice	Intrapersonal Task
Interpersonal Verbal Task	Musical Task	Verbal Task

Sources:

- On Target: Strategies That Differentiate Instruction, Grades 4-12., ESA 6 & 7.
- Heacox, Diane, "Promoting Student Independence and Responsibility in Academically Diverse Classrooms, 2005 ASCD Annual Conference, Orlando, FL., April 2005.
- Wormeli, Rick, *Fair Isn't Always Equal: Assessing & Grading in the Differentiated Classroom*. Portland, ME: Stenhouse, 2006, pages 65–66.
- Lead-Deadwood High School teachers Kim Fundaun, Laura Shuck, and Brooke Kilian.