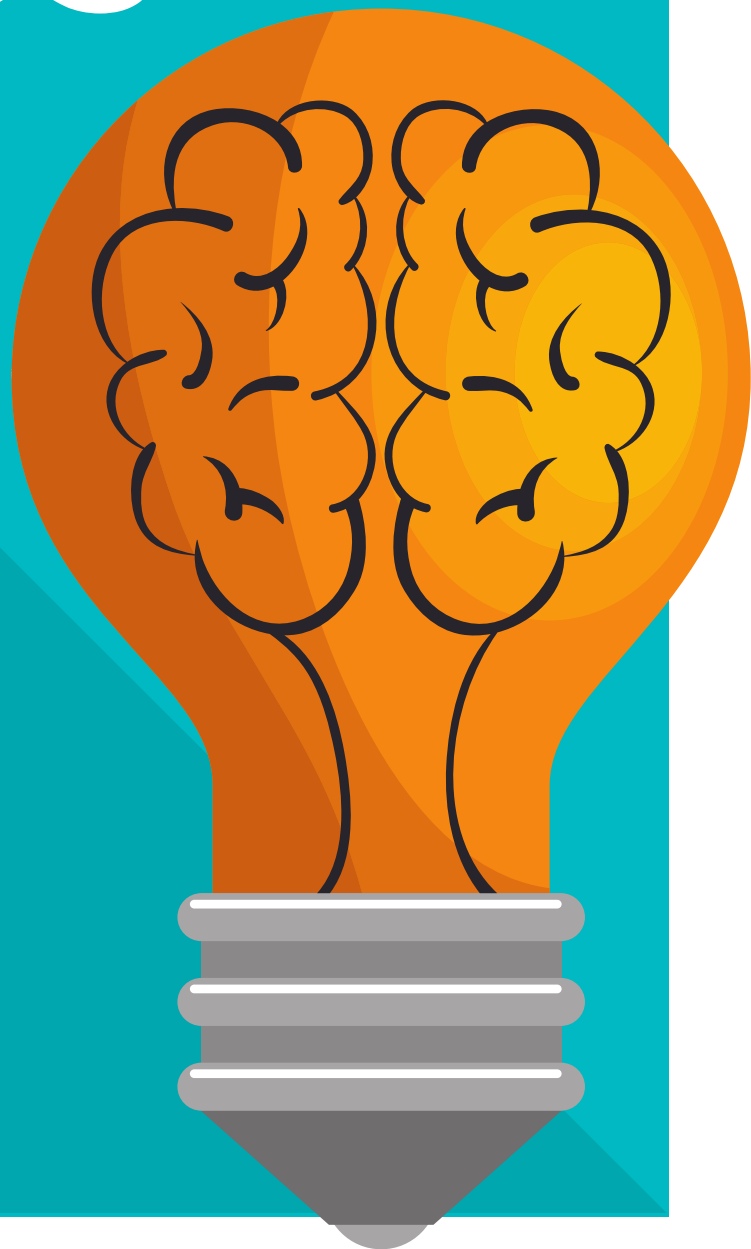


THE TEACHER'S GUIDE TO DIGITAL CHOICE BOARDS[©]



BY KASEY BELL



You are not authorized to share or distribute this product.

This product is subject to copyright protection.

Without written consent from the owner of Shake Up Learning, LLC., no portion of this copyrighted eBook may be reproduced or copied.

Copyright © 2019 Shake Up Learning, LLC. All rights reserved.

Book Design and Production by Kasey Bell.

Written by Kasey Bell.

www.ShakeUpLearning.com

Please direct teachers to download their own copy here:
shakeuplearning.com/8

About the Author



Kasey Bell is part sparkling smile, part witty personality and a whole heap of passion as big as a Texas--go big or go home, y'all! She is a disruptor of the boring. An engaging, innovative, from the heart sharer who inspires educators while transforming their teaching with original, timely and use-tomorrow ideas for student choice, differentiation, and technology integration.

Whether it is learning from home through online courses, professional

development, conference workshops or as a keynote speaker Kasey is a relentless innovator of ideas and a devoted transformer of classrooms and teaching.

Through teacher empowering publications and award-winning educational resources at ShakeUpLearning.com, learner-driven workshops and presentations and co-hosting Google Teacher Tribe weekly podcast, Kasey proves why we should never settle for the boring when it comes to bringing out the very best in our students, and we should always strive to Shake Up Learning!

Host of [The Shake Up Learning Show Podcast](#)

Author of [Shake Up Learning: Practical Ideas to Move Learning from Static to Dynamic](#)

Co-host of [The Google Teacher Tribe Podcast](#)

Google Certified Innovator

Google Certified Trainer

Award-winning blogger and social media influencer

Must Read EdTech Blog

Edublog Awards Finalist

The award-winning [Shake Up Learning](#) website and blog provides teachers with practical resources for using technology in the classroom, including how to use Google Classroom, G Suite for Education and other Google tools, as well as many other blended learning and technology integration resources. Here you will find free technology tips and tricks, free downloads and templates, in-depth [online courses](#), books, lesson plans, and lesson ideas, cheat sheets, blog publications, and podcasts.

The Teacher's Guide to Digital Choice Boards

[Click here to listen to this guide in a podcast format!](#)

I have been a fan of choice boards (aka learning menus) since my first few years of teaching.

I even shared some choice boards and ideas in my book, [Shake Up Learning: Practical Ideas to Move Learning From Static to Dynamic](#).

As a middle school language arts teacher, I began teaching the way I was taught--every student did the same thing at the same time.

But as I began to improve my craft and implement things like small group instruction, I learned that we could differentiate, offer choice, and have multiple learning opportunities happening at the same time--even in secondary.

What is a Choice Board?

- IT'S ALL ABOUT CHOICE!
- Choice boards are a form of differentiated learning that gives students a menu or choice of learning activities.
- Learning menus and choice boards can be created in a variety of styles and mediums.
- They've been around for a long time and originated in a static, paper format.
- With digital tools, we can bring the menus to life with interactivity and creation.

Why Use Choice Boards?

"...at its core, differentiated instruction means addressing ways in which students vary as learners." – Carol Ann Tomlinson

Choice boards provide students with flexible learning paths to the learning goal. Every student has different strengths, learning styles, and interests, and choice boards allow us to reach more learners in new and different ways.

Choice boards help teachers differentiate. There are many ways to differentiate for our students. Providing choice allows us to give students a voice in their own learning. It's student centered!

What Do Choice Boards Look Like

- Choice boards can be a simple list, tic-tac-toe or bingo-style game, or get as creative and intricate as you like.
- Check out my [Pinterest board](#) for ideas.

Where and When Should We Use Choice Boards?

Choice boards are incredibly versatile!

- Choice boards Can Be Used with Any Age Group
- Choice boards Can Be Used in Any Subject Area
- Choice boards Can Be Used for Short Activities or Big Projects

Are Choice Boards and Hyperdocs the Same Thing?

- No, but they could be part of a Hyperdoc assignment.
- A Choice Board is merely a menu of choices from which students can choose.
- A Hyperdoc is a complete packaged assignment that also meets some additional criteria.
- A Hyperdoc doesn't have to include choice, but it could.

New to Hyperdocs, learn more about them at [Hyperdocs.co](https://hyperdocs.co).

Types of Learning Menus

- A simple list of activities
- Tic-Tac-Toe
- Bingo Board
- Restaurant Style Menu
- Learning Style Choice Boards
- 4 C's Choice Boards
- Possibilities are limitless!

See more ideas in this blog post: [Interactive Learning Menus with G Suite](#).

The Tic-Tac-Toe Choice Board (MY FAVE!)

- Simple but effective
- Great for daily activities, as well as long-term projects.
- It is not overwhelming with just three choices.
- Easily create a Tic-Tac-Toe in Google Docs or Google Slides by inserting a table.

Choice Board Lesson Design

The first thing my eighth graders did when I gave them a choice board was to try to figure out which choices were the “easiest.”

If you design your choice board with some thought and meaning, there will not be an easy way out!

Yes, some activities take longer than others, so keep that in mind and try to balance the choices evenly.

But, most importantly, design each activity to meet the learning goal!

When you look at my Tic-Tac-Toe templates, you will notice three things.

1. I number the boxes.

Numbering the choices gives you and your students an easy reference.

2. I use the middle square as my non-negotiable.

There is usually at least one thing you want every student to do--read an article, watch a video, write a paragraph, etc. This will also control how they make their tic-tac-toe when it contains the middle square. Now, they are only making two choices which is also less-overwhelming.

3. I color-code the boxes to align with how they make their choices.

Students choose one option from the blue section and one option from the yellow section. This can also help you with lesson design. Each color can align with a different learning goal. For instance, blue can be research, discovery, and inquiry; then yellow could be creating based on that learning. Or they could all be summative projects.

Another option is to make the middle square a FREE choice where students propose their own project, activity, or tool pending teacher approval. This is not something I

would recommend for first-timers, but for students and teachers who are experienced with choice boards.

I would recommend making each option not only aligned with the learning goal but also at the same level of Bloom's or Depth of Knowledge (DOK). This will help ensure balance in the activities.

Tic-Tac-Toe Choice Board Templates

Google Docs Tic-Tac-Toe Template

It is super easy to create a table in Google Docs! (If you don't want to create your own, you can use my template below.)

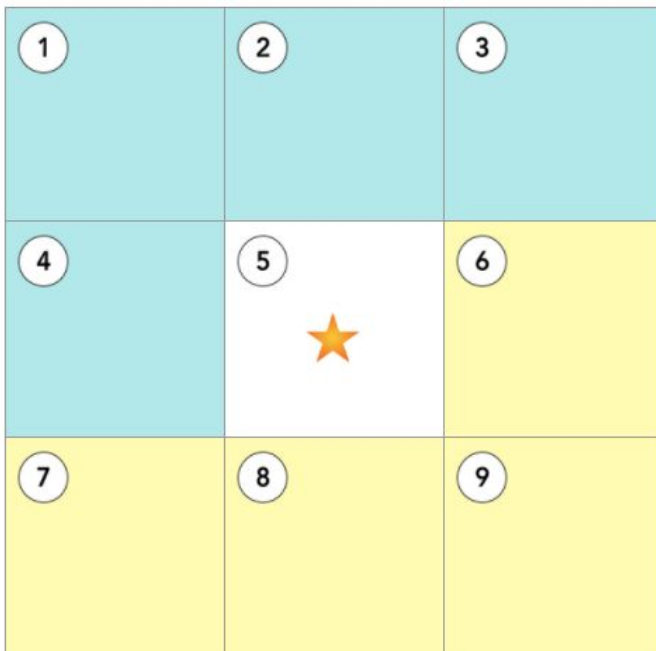
Assigning in Google Classroom

Typically, students do not need to edit a choice board. Most choice boards (not all_ are designed to be "read-only." If assigning in Google Classroom, simply attach from Google Drive and use "students can view the file."

Tic-Tac-Toe Choice Menu:
Name of Menu

Directions:

Start with number 5 and then make two other choices to make your tic-tac-toe.



[Use the Google Doc Template](#) | [Make a Copy](#) (better for mobile)

Google Slides Tic-Tac-Toe Template


You know I love Slides! Slides can also give you the option for a read-only directions document, but consider a slide deck to add a slide for each rubric and additional information.

Assigning in Google Classroom

If you are just sharing directions, assign and attach from Google Drive and use “students can view the file.” Alternatively, if you give students their own copy, you can also have them select their choices on the slide by marking or highlighting in a different color, and even link to their creations.

Tic-Tac-Toe Choice Menu

Directions: Start with number 5 and then make two other choices to make your tic-tac-toe.

1.	2.	3.
4.	5. 	6.
7.	8.	9.

Created by Kasey Bell
www.ShakeUpLearning.com

[Use the Google Slides Template](#) | [Make a Copy](#) (better for mobile)

Other Tic-Tac-Toe Templates

- **Novel Study Tic-Tac-Toe:** [Use Template](#) | [Make a Copy](#)
- **Chrome PD Tic-Tac-Toe:** [Use Template](#) | [Make a Copy](#)

Quick G Suite Tips:

- [How to Create Template Links in G Suite](#)
- [How to Force a Copy in G Suite](#)

Get Creative with Choice Boards

There are many ways to design choice boards. The Tic-Tac-Toe is just a jumping off point.

My friend, Tommy Spall, from Brenham ISD in Brenham, Texas, has shared many creative learning menus, one of which is even featured in my book, [Shake Up Learning: Practical Ideas to Move Learning From Static to Dynamic](#).

Tommy's [Digital Learning Menu for Student Creation](#)

In this Google Slides menu, you will find several tools from which students can choose in a restaurant-style menu. Tommy also included rubrics!

Spall's Digital CAFE
Creative Book Trailer Ideas

Brenham ISD, Texas
Tom Spall (Creator) @tommyspall

Sides (Teacher led)
Teacher can set up a **FlipGrid** or **Padlet** for student responses

Link to **Project Rubric:** goo.gl/9nTP41

Student group could create their own **FlipGrid** or **Padlet** for presentation and reflection.

Entrees (Main Creation)
Google Slides
Google Drawing Poster
Google Document
Powtoon
Education
Thinglink

Appetizers (record audio/video)
Screencastify
WeVideo
Vocaroo

Beverages (Non-Digital)
Cardboard Poster
Create a Skit or Play
Create a Cereal Box Display
Dress up and Present
Create a Diorama

Desserts (Static Pages or Embed Areas)
Smore Page or Google Site

Menu

[Use the Slides Template](#) | [Make a Copy](#)

Fortnite Menu for Student Creation

Tommy also blew my mind when he introduced another menu, [The Fortnite Digital Menu for Student Creation](#)!

In this menu, students choose where to drop on the Fortnite map!











[Use the Slides Template](#) | [Make a Copy](#)

Multiple Intelligences Menu

Consider how you can use these ideas to develop a Multiple Intelligences Menu in your content area.

The example below shows lots of options in each square. Use this as inspiration and create your own. There are too many choices on this board, and it would overwhelm students. **Stick to one option per square!**

CHOICE BOARD FOR MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES

<p>Verbal/Linguistic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write instructions • Keep a personal journal • Create a poem • Create TV ads • Read stories to others • Retell in your own words • Teach concept mapping • Create crossword puzzle 	<p>Logical/Mathematical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a time line • Compare/contrast ideas • Create an outline for a story • Design a map • Decipher codes • Create patterns • Design a game to show... 	<p>Visual/Spatial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a poster • Draw a map • Create visual diagrams • Draw from different perspectives • Create a comic strip • Graph results of a survey 
<p>Interpersonal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell stories • Teach a cooperative game • Role play a situation • Discuss and come to a conclusion • Survey or interview others 	<p>Free Choice</p>	<p>Body Kinesthetic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make up a cooperative game • Practice physical exercise • Conduct hands-on experiments • Construct a model or representation 
<p>Musical Rhythmic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create raps • Play musical instruments • Write to music • Teach dance steps • Make up sounds and sound effects • Write a jingle • Create rhymes that... 	<p>Naturalist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect and categorize data, materials, or ideas • Discover or experiment • Take a field trip • Study means of survival • Adapt materials to a new use • Label and classify 	<p>Intrapersonal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep a personal journal • Write about personal experiences • Think about and plan... • Review or visualize • How would it feel to... • Imagine and write about the future 

Credit: <http://indulgy.com/source/mrsestblog.blogspot.com>

BINGO Style Choice Board

This example below [from Amber Teamann](#) can easily be adapted for students.

Amber is an elementary principal in Wylie ISD in Wylie, Texas. Although her example was designed for teachers to avoid the summer slide, it can easily be adapted into choices appropriate for students.

PD BINGO

Attend An Edcamp	Subscribe to an educational blog	Read 1 PD book & Tweet 1 fun thing	Create an Instagram account.	Revamp your "Back to School" teacher letter.
Tag or send a teacher friend an Instagram post with an activity to try.	Find ONE new app to use in your 1 st IFD.	Use Adobe Spark to create an image with a fave quote and share!	Find a FREE TPT resource for Guided Reading and share.	Follow 5 new teachers on Twitter.
Create a NEW 1 st Day of School activity and share.	Snapchat...share a selfie with a fun filter!	FREE SPACE	Find someone you feel like you can learn from and plan to visit them in the fall!	Watch an educational "TED Talk."
Find and share a flexible seating management strategy.	Find a FREE TPT resource for Guided Math and share.	Comment on an educational blog post.	Reach out to new teacher. (Invite to lunch/coffee/ write welcome note.)	Tweet, text, or Facebook a selfie doing any of these things!
Send an email to 3 colleagues complimenting them for something they do in their classroom.	Create and/or share an educational Pinterest board.	Participate in a Twitter Chat Retweet 5 Things	Share one professional goal.	Create an "All About Me" poster/anchor chart/activity for 1 st week of school.

@8AMBER & @MILLER7571

Remember too many choices can overwhelm so keep these short and sweet!

Consider a BINGO board for brain breaks or enrichment activities to work on over a longer period of time, 6-week period, or semester.

Using the 4 C's in Learning Menus

Back in [episode 2 of The Shake Up Learning Show](#), I shared some ideas for integrating the 4 C's in the classroom, including the 4 C's Digital Learning Menu.

The 4 C's, communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity are foundational skills for [Dynamic Learning](#) and preparing students to be future-ready.

How are you integrating the 4 C's in your curriculum?

Where do you have opportunities to integrate the 4 C's?

[The 4 C's Digital Learning Menu](#) can help you find ideas and push deeper.

Use the link below the image to get your copy of the template and the teacher's guide so you can customize for your classroom.

4 C's Digital Learning Menu [\(click here to get template and teacher's guide.\)](#)

 Communication	 Collaboration	 Critical Thinking	 Creativity
1. Summarize your learning using the digital tool of your choice. Feel free to use multiple types of media. (ex: video, presentation, drawing, Twitter, mindmap)	3. With a partner, discuss the topic/question , then together create a digital representation of your thoughts, ideas, questions and reflections. (ex: Slides, Padlet, drawing, video)	5. Using the image provided by your teacher, infer what happened in the picture. Retell what you think happened in your own words and expressed with the digital tool of your choice. (ex: timeline, diagram, digital story)	7. List as many uses for a paperclip that you can think of in ten minutes. Share with a partner and push your team to think of 20 more!
2. Teach a concept from this week's learning to another student using the digital tool of your choice. Feel free to use multiple types of media. (ex: screencast tutorial, YouTube video, diagram, podcast)	4. With your team, discuss possible solutions to the problem and develop a solution. Together, create a digital representation of your solution using the tool of your choice. (ex: sketch, diagram, Docs, Slides, Sites)	6. Research a current issue that you are passionate about. Using your research as evidence, craft an argument using the digital tool of your choice to assert your opinion with ideas to solve. (ex: writing, video, podcast)	8. Reinvent school ! If school could be anything you wanted it to, what would it look like? What would you learn? How would you learn it? Create a model of your new school using the digital tool of your choice.

[Use the Slides Template](#) | [Make a Copy](#)

Choice Board Product Ideas

Are you looking for ideas to get students creating with choice boards?

Don't just use the ideas in the templates, choose the RIGHT activity for your students and learning goals.

Below is a list of some project ideas to get you started.

- Timeline
- Book Cover/Jacket
- Comic Strip
- Newspaper
- Trading Cards
- Social Media Profile
- Venn Diagram
- Mind Map
- Game
- Poem/Song
- Soundtrack
- Interview
- Diary/Reflection
- Book Trailer
- App
- Retell
- PSA
- Annotate
- Commercial
- Presentation
- 3D Model
- Drawing
- Collage

Rubrics

Using student friendly rubrics are really important! The purpose of a rubric is not for teachers to grade, but to communicate expectations.

Consider the possibility that you may need multiple rubrics depending on the goal of the choice board.

Rubrics should focus on the content goals, not the technology.

The number of images and transitions in a presentation is not what should be evaluated, but the content and learning targets.

Be careful that you aren't using a choice board because it was an easy, free download. Does it align with your learning goals?

Choice Board Tips

Again, be careful that your choice board isn't driven by technology; make sure it aligns with your learning goals!

The purpose of a digital choice board shouldn't be just to integrate technology, but to leverage technology to engage learning and help them reach those goals!

Start small! Students who have never been given a choice will be overwhelmed by too many options.

And, as much as we like to think that students will love having a choice, many will not. They are used to playing the game of school where there is one correct answer.

The high-achievers will want you to tell them which choices to pick.

The students who just want to get their work done will look for an easy way out. Make sure they don't have one!

Additional Resources

[Kasey's Pinterest Board](#)

[Shake Up Learning Differentiation Resources](#)

[Meaningful Menus FREE PDF \(from Laurie Westphal\)](#)

Books by Laurie Westphal:

Laurie has learning menu books available for different subject areas and grade levels!

[Click here to see her Learning Menu books.](#) (Too many to list!)

Recommended Books on Differentiation by Carol Ann Tomlinson

[How to Differentiate Instruction in Academically Diverse Classrooms](#)

[The Differentiated Classroom: Responding to the Needs of All Learners](#)

[Understanding Differentiated Instruction \(Quick Reference Guide\)](#)

[Differentiation and the Brain: How Neuroscience Supports the Learner-Friendly Classroom \(Use Brain-Based Learning and Neuroeducation to Differentiate Instruction\)](#)

[Leading and Managing a Differentiated Classroom \(Professional Development\)](#)

[Integrating Differentiated Instruction and Understanding by Design: Connecting Content and Kids](#)