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## Student Choice Case Example

### Case Example

**Student:** Elizabeth

**Grade:** 4<sup>th</sup>

**Presenting problem:** Off-task behavior during independent work

### Background

Elizabeth has difficulty staying focused during independent reading and writing tasks. Her teacher decides to incorporate more opportunities for choice to increase her engagement and reduce off-task behavior.

### Getting Started

Her teacher identifies key times during the day when student choice can be built in. She introduces the idea to Elizabeth, explaining how having a say in her work can help her feel more in control and motivated. The teacher then introduces the idea of student choice to the whole class, explaining that they would start getting more options in how they complete their work.

### Implementation

During writing time at the start of class, the teacher now offers the class three different journal prompts each day instead of a single required one. Elizabeth was able to pick the prompt that interested her the most and remained engaged through the entire writing time. During independent reading at the end of class, students can choose between reading a book independently, reading with a partner, or listening to a recorded version of a book on their classroom tablet while following along with the text. Elizabeth chose to read with a partner, and they selected a graphic novel from the library. Each time a choice was presented, the teacher clearly outlined expectations (i.e., they must stick with their choice for the whole day, complete the assigned task, and remain focused). After the choice activity, the teacher asked the students (and specifically Elizabeth) to reflect how their choice worked out. Some students reflected that being with a partner was fun but they completed less work, so next time they chose to listen to a recorded version on headphones. Over time, her teacher noticed a decrease in her off-task behavior and an improvement in the quality of her journal entries and reading comprehension.