

Coaching for Voice

In a personalized learning, every student is seen as a respected and valued participant; they are the stewards of their own learning. Empowerment comes from an environment in which students recognize the power of their own ideas and recognize and recognize the shift that can happen by being exposed to others' ideas.

Regular student participation and engagement in co-creating performances and actions constitutes an opportunity to flex their innovative and creative muscles.



Reflective Prompts

- In what ways do you invite students to express their thoughts and opinions?
- In what ways do you create an environment of safety for students to respectfully disagree with one another (and you)?
- In what ways do you give students the opportunity to advocate for a position?
- In what ways do you encourage students to raise questions that are skeptical or out of the box?

Possible Actions

- Teach students the Habits of Mind, specifically *Listening with Understanding and Empathy; Questioning and Problem Posing; and Communicating with Accuracy and Precision.*
- Be a role model by exercising Habits of Mind — students need to experience what it feels like to be *really* listened to for the sake of better understanding their ideas, point of view, or responses.
- Establish “rules of engagement” with students when having 1:1, small group or whole class conversations. They should play an active role in the generation and consensus of the rules.
- Periodically check in through student surveys. There can be subtle or seismic shifts throughout the year in the lives of students, dynamics amongst their peers, and how they feel about certain topics/resources. This can continue to update the “rules of engagement” as well as shape how you connect with students and how you understand what is important to them.