

Lessons and Strategies for "CHOICE"

- [G.E. Tenets and Key Ideas on Choice](#)
- [Lesson Plan for Introducing Choice and Goal Setting](#) - 2 lesson plans with extensive resources for introducing choice/goal setting at all grade levels and for use with discipline through setting behavior/academic goals. Includes specific examples for the educational setting and 6 Powerpoints.
- Use any of the resources below to discuss making choices.
 1. **Introductory lesson to choices:**

Brainstorm choices learners make before school, at school, after school. See [School Day Choice chart](#) and [School Day Example Choice Chart](#). Add to the example or start with blank chart. Adapt concept for middle and high school students.

2) Literature Lessons: (May also apply to everyday situations)

Since Choice is an integral part of every story/situation, the decision-making process steps may be applied to analyze the choices being made along with the consequences. This gives endless opportunities for reinforcing decision-making skills.

Selection of Potential Questions for Discussion:

- What choice was most important to the story/situation ending?
- What might be some other possible choices (options)?
- What was the critical point in the story/situation where the choice made affected everything afterwards?
- What effect did the choice have on the others in the story/situation?
- Were there smaller choices made that affected the main one? If so, what were they?
- What choice would you have made and why?

3) Reflection: (Select one.)

- Have learners draw or write about:

I agreed/disagreed with the choice to.....because...

For my own life, the story made me think...

The decision that stood out was...

In the same situation I would have...

Videos:

- **Marshmallow Test** 3:27 min. Several kids wrestle with waiting to eat a marshmallow in hopes of a bigger prize - Good for showing choices by very young children.
 - Reflection question:
- **The Three Questions** - 6:13 min. Based on story by Leo Tolstoy adapted by Jon Muth
- **The Three Questions Poster** - Questions from book, The Three Questions by Jon Muth
- **The Three Questions** by Leo Tolstoy – simplified version - Printable
- **Rocket - Making a Choice to overcome a challenge** 30 sec. Fizzling Rocket provides opportunity for CHOICE. Great for 2-6th

Tools: The strategies below may be used with:

1. Any general decision-making as a class or with an individual learner
2. Problem-solving
3. Conflict resolution
4. Any situation/story to analyze choices made by character/s.

Printable documents:

- **C.R.O.S.S.ROADS Decision-making process** - This is the 5 step decision-making process that may be used for general decision-making, goal setting, problem-solving, and conflict resolution. (**C.R.O.S.S.ROADS Process Poster**)
- **C.R.O.S.S.ROADS Simplified Decision-making Process Worksheet**
- **Choice C.R.O.S.S.ROADS Planning Worksheet** - Use this document for detailed planning on the personal effort necessary to carry out a choice.
- **Choice Chart** - Use with any story or situation to guide learners in recognizing that choices are being made. Extend by analyzing the consequences of those choices.

- [Choice Option Chart](#) - Use with any story or situation to help learners recognize that there are always choice options.
- [The Right Questions Poster](#) - Use the three questions with any story analyzing if the character/s decisions.
- [Choice C.R.O.S.S.ROADS Directory](#) - Complete resources with forms, examples, posters, sign language, task cards, etc.

Music:

Suggest use as introductory songs for Choice

For Elementary:

- [Stop, Think, Go](#) Children's song for helping make good decisions 2:28 min. Click on *Show More* and lyrics and motions may be viewed.
- [Jammer and Pop sing "CHOICES"](#) 2:15 min.
- [Stop and Think song - Sesame Street](#) 1:17 min.
- ["Making Choices" song by Thornwood Elementary School](#) 2:19 min.
- [Making Choices song by Mr. Heath](#) 2:35 min.
- [The North Wind Doth Blow song](#) 31 sec.
A robin makes a choice during a snow storm. Short.
- [The Ants Go Marching song](#) 2:04 min
Ants make decisions during a march which cause distractions and reduce the number of marchers
- [Tiny Tim the Turtle song](#)
Song about a boy who put his turtle in the bathtub. Was that a good choice?

All Levels:

- [Desert Pete song](#) by the Kingston Trio - 2:43 min. - The song presents Desert Pete's problem and his choices to solve it. [Desert Pete Lyrics](#)

Option: Use the [Desert Pete Goal setting Worksheet](#) to work through his situation.

Videos: Elementary

- [Ernie Learns to Stop and Think - Sesame Street](#) . 4:28 min. Shows Ernie going through choice process.
- [Cookie Choosing - Sesame Street](#) 1:37 min. Shows Ernie giving Cookie Monster choice between bag with one cookie and a bag with many cookies.
- [Making Decisions: Making the Right Choices. Part 1](#) - Puppet Show 11:59 min.
- [Decisions: Making the Right Choices Part 2](#) – Puppet Show 6:21 min.
- [Decisions, Decisions, Decisions](#) 3:57 min. Animated young people talking about making small and big decisions (British accent)

All Levels:

- [Stories, T.V. Spots - Values](#) - Select from any of these very short (1+ min.) video clips to analyze the choices being made and brainstorm option/consequences. EXCELLENT Resource!
- Example: [Cafeteria](#) - 1 min.