

# Tip Sheet

## Moving from Individualization to Customization

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Instead of trying to create individual lessons for each student, here are some strategies that help you help students have a customized experience in your classroom and create multiple access points into the curriculum:

- ✦ Share with students the goal of the lesson and give students several choices as to how they can meet that goal. Discuss with students the pros and cons of each approach so that students can make intelligent decisions. Show students how to take into account their learning style preference, their resources, the amount of time they have available, and their skill set when making these choices.
- ✦ Demonstrate to students several different ways that they can solve a problem or complete an assignment. Discuss with students the advantages and disadvantages of each approach and allow them to choose which approach they will take. Ask them to explain their choice as a part of the assignment.
- ✦ Keep in your classroom a variety of learning supports – blank graphic organizers, note-taking sheets, study aids, manipulatives, and tools. Explain to students how to use each of these tools and at the beginning of each assignment, indicate which tools might be useful. Allow students to choose the tools that are most useful for them.
- ✦ Encourage your students to find or build learning tools that work best for them. For instance, a student might have devised great study strategy or found a really useful website for a particular assignment. Have them share the tools they find with the entire class.
- ✦ Have students rate the learning tools and strategies they use or that you provide for each assignment. Then provide that rating with the tool each time you use it.
- ✦ Encourage students to modify or add to the tools that you are using. Share these modifications with the entire class.
- ✦ Discuss with students the learning strategies they are using. Ask them to share with the class the pros and cons of the strategy and keep a running list of the strategies that various students have found most useful and least useful. Share this list with the class via your class website, class wiki, or a poster in the classroom.