

# WHY USE CHOICES PROGRAM CURRICULUM MATERIALS?

## An Introduction to the Choices Program for Board of Education Members

*"Generates good discussion and critical thinking. Worth the money." - Amanda, Arizona*

*"Choices is an amazing curriculum—better than others out there. It offers teachers resources to teach truthful history." - Johanna, New York*

For more than 35 years, the Choices Program has been a leader in developing history and social studies curriculum. What accounts for our years of success? It's simple: Teachers telling other teachers that our materials are outstanding. We are a small, self-funded non-profit organization. Our success is based on our innovative, unique approach to making historical and contemporary issues engaging and interesting to secondary school students.

Unlike some large curriculum providers, we write ONLY history and social studies materials. Our curriculum units are vetted by leading scholars from Brown University and beyond, so you can be sure your students are accessing the latest scholarship.

Don't just take our word for it. Choices has received numerous awards over the years from diverse professional organizations. Choices has been awarded the Buchanan Prize from the Association for Asian Studies (three times, including in 2024) and the 2023 Best Digital Tools Award from the American Association of School Librarians.

Choices Program materials are used by public, private, and charter schools in all 50 states as well as by more than 200 international schools around the globe.

We offer more than 40 curriculum units and series of units in Print, Digital Editions (a web-based platform with no student logins), or Deluxe (a Print unit along with a 2-year Digital Editions license). Digital licenses are available for 1-7 years.

# Rigorous, Innovative, Nonpartisan Content

*"Fantastic curated sources and thoughtful activities."* - Julianna, Massachusetts

*"The curriculum gives students a great opportunity to place themselves in the 'moment of decision' and provides great perspectives."* - Taylor, Spain

Choices curriculum empowers students to understand the relationship between history and current issues while developing the analytical skills to become thoughtful global citizens. Navigating a complex world calls for students to be able to:

- Understand multiple perspectives
- Analyze evidence
- Create and defend one's own viewpoint

Our curriculum units help them do just that! Our rigorous materials are built from meticulous research and scholarly review. Students are challenged to think about history and current issues in new ways and to take ownership of their learning.

We also recognize that not all scholars agree. Choices curriculum includes different perspectives and diverse opinions, and we invite students to consider and grapple with multiple viewpoints. See more about our Guiding Principles and Scholarly Integrity on the About page at [www.choices.edu](http://www.choices.edu).



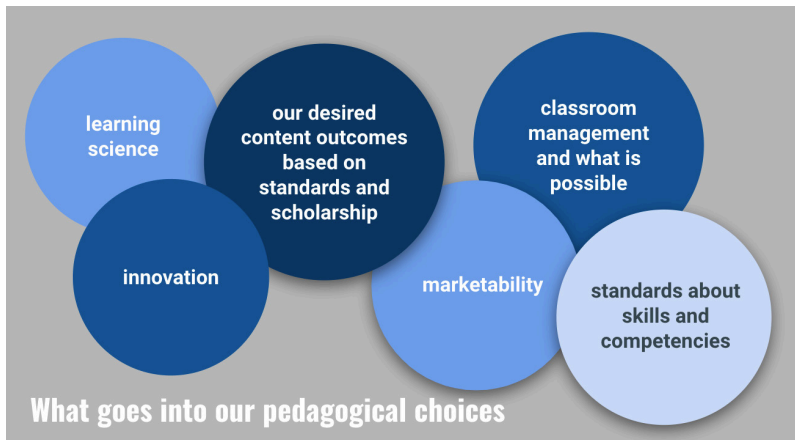
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**CHOICES**  
**PROGRAM**



**BROWN**  
Department of History

# Choices Pedagogy and the Science Behind It



*"This is not a typical social studies curriculum. It engages students to go beyond and find more about a topic; it pushes them to think outside their normal frame of reference. This engagement builds up my students' academic stamina."*

- Ernie, Georgia

## How does the science behind learning inform our curriculum units?

**Science says: Students need to be taught how to learn.** Choices curriculum units include ample opportunities for self-reflection. Questions like "What was challenging?" and "What do you want to learn more about?" are found throughout each unit. Units also provide scaffolded directions for readings and lesson completion.

**Science says: Motivation leads to learning, and a sense of autonomy leads to motivation. Engaged students learn better!** We support students in developing their own questions and encourage curiosity through a variety of engaging lessons. These include art, music, and literature as well as written texts, maps, and other visuals. Choices curriculum units strive to demonstrate how historical events are relevant to today, building on students' innate curiosity about the world around them.

**Science says: "Desirable difficulties" lead to more solid learning.** Our award-winning curriculum challenges students, and we are proud of that! However, all learning in our units is scaffolded, and cognitively challenging tasks are completed in small groups or with ample guidance and appropriate feedback. Peer feedback forms and graphic organizers are also included. Lessons end with questions that can be used to assess students' knowledge and the skills gained.

**Science says: If you can transfer what you've learned to a new context, you've mastered it.** Lessons in a Choices unit progress from straightforward (Depth of Knowledge, Levels 1-2) to more complex (DOK, Levels 3-4). Ultimately, our units might ask students to build a timeline, create a memorial, or develop an historical narrative using images, all while building on and transferring newfound knowledge.

# Underrepresented Voices You Won't Find Elsewhere

*"I love the inclusivity of the Choices Program. It is difficult to find materials that represent diverse cultures and perspectives and also empower BIPOC students. Choices units balance rigorous historical skills and empathy-building content. I appreciate the unique and rich curriculum." - Margaret, California*



Fannie Lou Hamer; Queen Lili'uokalani and the Association of Hawaiian Women Who Love the Land; Pablo Ocampo

## Do your students know these people, and the role they played in history?

If not, they will after using Choices units! We believe that history is made by real people making real decisions—hence the name Choices! What this means is that your students will hear not just from key figures in U.S. and world history, but also from the underrepresented and often overlooked voices of everyday people who have been left out of the telling of history. Historical literacy—the ability to read, write, and think critically about the past—is enriched when we include multiple voices or viewpoints.

Please contact us with any questions. If your district would like a no cost, no obligation trial for one of our Digital Editions curriculum titles, email [choices\\_digital@brown.edu](mailto:choices_digital@brown.edu).

Follow us on social media: @choicesprogram



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