



YOUTH DRIVING LEARNING

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Grip tape is an anti-slip adhesive used by skateboarders to anchor themselves to their board so they can take control of where they want to go and how they want to get there.

GripTape, the organization, gives young people the traction they need to take control of their own learning, choose their purposes, and achieve their full potential.

THE CHALLENGE

We believe that when youth have opportunities to drive their own learning and growth — that is, to practice learner agency — it leads to deeper learning and positive youth development. Our convictions are backed by research studies across disciplines and GripTape’s own ongoing rapid learning cycles.

Despite this evidence, youth and adults alike still struggle to harness the power of learner agency because many of us do not believe young people can drive their own learning. Critically, even if we do believe, we lack a consistent methodology for action.

“I would recommend this to everyone. Even if you have low goals or are bad at school, learning more about whatever you want makes you feel like you can do anything you want. There is something everyone wants to do, and this helps you get toward that goal.”

— GripTape Challenger, 16 Learning Challenge: Psychiatry

OUR RESPONSE

We seek to ignite a national movement among young people and adult partners to ensure youth have access to the opportunities, environments, and resources to shape and accelerate their own learning. Our response is framed by four primary activities:

FRAMEWORK	OPPORTUNITIES
<p>We will fill the knowledge gap on learner agency by creating a tested, research-driven framework that offers replicable guides for youth and adults to facilitate and measure the development of learner agency with the goal of inspiring every young person to accelerate and deepen their learning.</p>	<p>We will work with youth to cultivate out-of-school learning opportunities founded on their interests and passions, establishing a ground-breaking space in which young people design, implement, and assess their own learning.</p>
YOUTH ACTIVATION	LEARNING ACCELERATOR
<p>We will foster youth “activation,” in which young people not only drive their own learning but also become champions and mentors to other youth. GripTape will scale these efforts through a youth-to-youth online community that will increase demand and drive systemic impact.</p>	<p>Through our Learning Accelerator, we will cultivate exceptional partnerships that contribute to this emerging body of knowledge on youth learner agency, enabling young people and the institutions that serve them — from youth-to-youth networks to community organizations and schools — to implement agency-rich learning.</p>

OUTCOMES: THE SELF-REINFORCING CYCLE OF LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

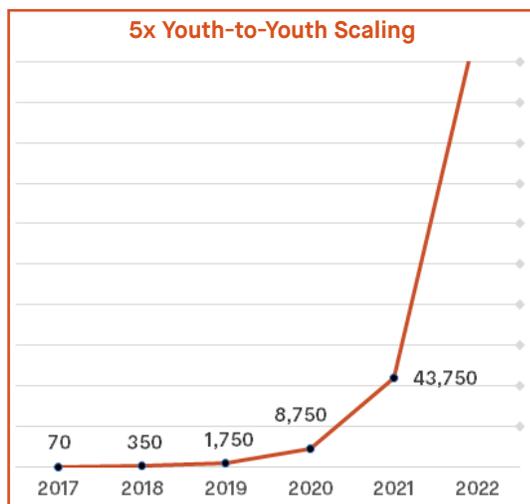
Building off the findings from our learning cycles, we have identified a set of six outcomes we believe represent the shift in actions, hearts, and minds of youth who have increased learner agency.



*GripTape defines “activation” as intensified desire and efforts to impact the world around oneself and inspire other youth to demand and pursue learning.

VISION FOR 2022

GripTape is pursuing a 5x youth-to-youth scaling strategy to reach 200,000 young people by 2022.



RESULTS TO DATE

Initial results from our first Learning Challenge show that when youth own their learning, they grow not only in topic mastery, but also in cognitive, interpersonal, and intrapersonal competencies (e.g., leadership, self-confidence, and critical thinking skills). GripTape Challengers reported that this experience of self-determined learning showed them what they were capable of and inspired them to think innovatively to solve problems, in school and beyond.

Through our research, we found that 100% of youth want opportunities to design and direct their own learning — and view this as valuable to their future success. Their self-reported greatest needs are decision-making authority, financial resources, and champions.



“The Challenge was the first time that I stepped in to fill a leadership void ... It changed the way I saw myself a little. I now know that I can step up and fix things even if they are going away. This is going to change the way I approach things in the future. I am not going to be a bystander and let things fall apart, I am going to take control and change it myself.”

— GripTape Challenger, 16
Learning Challenge: Coding