Reimagining Learner-Centered Methods
For the last five years, our team of Guides, researchers, and consultants has been researching learner-centered methods, putting them into practice, and guiding a handful of school systems to reimagine the specific skills, mindsets, and tactics of educators and leaders in learner-centered environments. We've condensed our learning about the differences between teacher-led and learner-led experiences into this framework that educators and leaders can use for planning, reflection, observations, brainstorming, and self-assessment.

Institute for
Self Directed
Learning

A Framework For Self Directed Learning

	In teacher-led environments...	**In learner-led environments...**
#1	Teachers focus on knowledge & skill building	Teachers are Guides and focus on whole-child development, including knowledge and skill building but also purpose-finding, social and emotional growth, character formation, and marketplace skills
#2	Teachers choose	Learners choose, and Guides customize learning plans and provide coaching
#3	Teachers assess	Learners assess through peer review, expert review, and self-evaluation, and Guides give growth mindset praise and highlight roadblocks they observe
#4	Teachers set the pace	Learners set the pace, and Guides monitor progress
#5	Teachers lecture	Learners explore, and Guides tell stories that inspire and share learning materials
#6	Teachers explain	Guides show world class examples, ask Socratic questions, and facilitate experimentation, peer-to-peer learning, and e-learning
#7	Teachers are at the front	Guides are alongside or in the background
#8	Classrooms are quiet and controlled	Studios are sometimes quiet, and sometimes are busy and appear chaotic
#9	Teachers are responsible to meet learners' needs	Guides facilitate "productive struggle," provide supports, and guide learners to become self aware and to self-advocate
#10	Teachers make rules for learners to follow	Learners make rules that Guides approve, and Guides design learning challenges, structured schedules, seating arrangements, incentives, and natural consequences for learners to experience
#11	Teachers set goals	Learners set goals, and Guides "hold up a mirror" so that learners more clearly see barriers and opportunities to meeting their goals
#12	Teachers form deep relationships with students	Guides facilitate team building and form networks of deep relationships for learners to enrich their social capital so that they may flourish as humans