Free Choice vs. “free choice”

Ashley McKee

As Jessica Willis began her demo I was filled with excitement because I was finally going to see math! I was already jealous because she had a Prezi, I have always wanted to do one of those instead of the boring PowerPoint. Then she got to her main lesson, holding students accountable for their own learning. I thought that I did a good job doing this in my classroom but NOPE, I guess not! Not that what I was currently doing was totally wrong but was not moving in the right direction. I had always thought that you were supposed to make the students “believe” that they had a choice but in reality you already have a plan on what they were actually going to do. It was the moment that she said, this part is required and the rest is up to you, that my light bulb went off. Why do so many teachers become afraid of trying new things or just simply letting the kids go with their free choice. I can hear my teammate now, “what if they google sex or monkey butts,” but I am starting to realize that its when free choice is allowed is when students will complete the assignment instead of straying afar. I guess what I am trying to say is free choice is the way to go to reach your children. I can relate to this “free choice” since I have the choice to put anything anywhere within my matrix. As a students, I appreciate being allowed to write about what I want so I need to allow my children the same freedom.