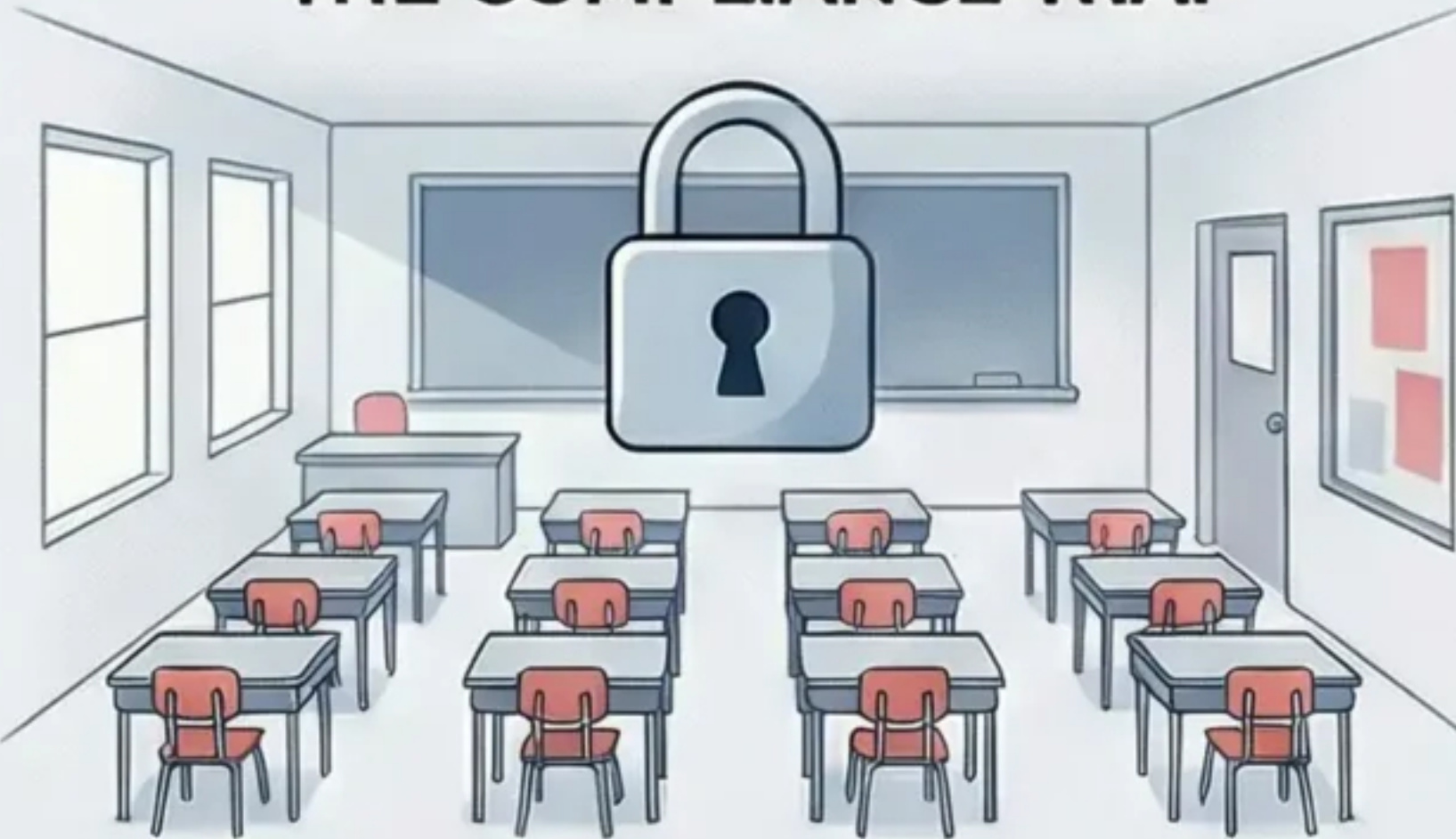


Beyond Compliance: Classrooms for Student Autonomy

THE COMPLIANCE TRAP



AUTONOMY-SUPPORTIVE DESIGN



Engagement is a Response, Not a Trait

Students disengage when learning feels imposed or meaningless rather than because they lack character.

Autonomy within Structure

Autonomy is not chaos; it is providing meaningful choices and voice within clear boundaries.



Compliance

Rewards and punishments produce short-term obedience but often lead to power struggles and avoidance.

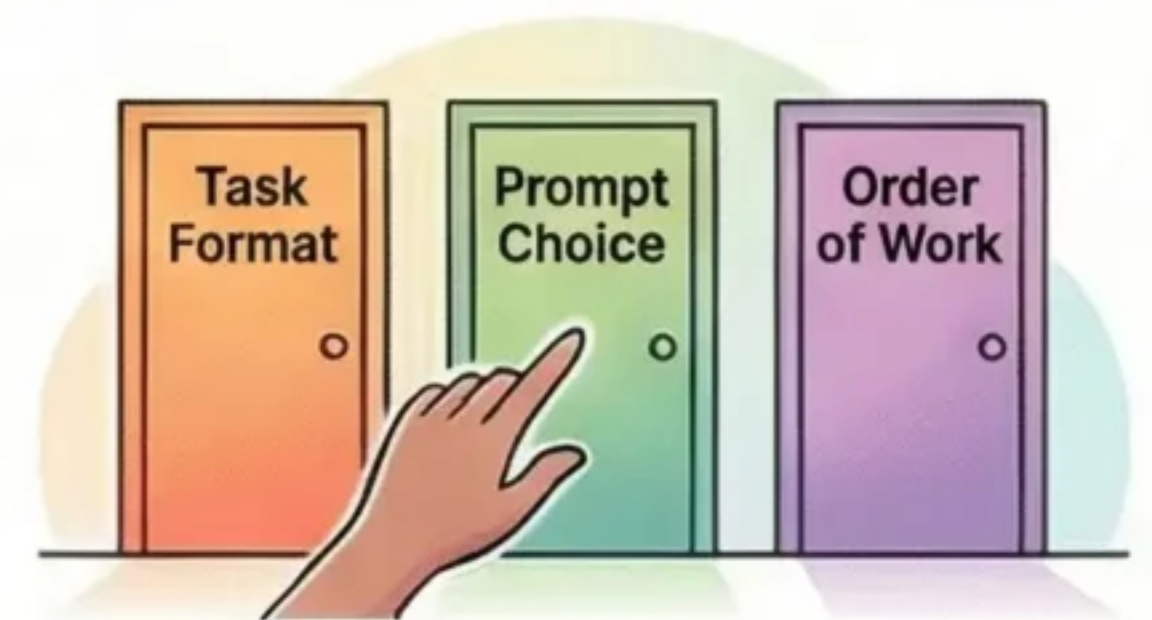


Shift from Control to Invitation:

Replace "You have to..." with "You can choose..."

Offer Structured Choice

Increase ownership by letting students choose task formats, prompts, or the order of their work.



The Three Pillars of Motivation

Autonomy



Autonomy
Feeling of volition and self-endorsement of one's actions.

Competence



Competence
Feeling effective in interactions with the social environment.

Relatedness



Relatedness
Feeling connected to others and feeling like one belongs.

Design Shifts

Disengaging Design

One pace for everyone



Compliance-based rules



Constant adult control



Autonomy-Supportive Design



Flexible pathways to the same goal



Meaningful choices within boundaries



Student voice and ownership