

# ***Strategies to Shape & Enhance the Learning Experience***

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sparqs (Student Partnerships in Quality Scotland) was created in 2003 and is funded by the Scottish Funding Council.

Work with:

- All colleges and HE institutions throughout Scotland.
- Students' Associations.
- Individual students.
- Other sector agencies.



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# Student Engagement



- “students understand how they can influence their learning, and that they feel they are supported in this process” – *Colleges Scotland*
- “students actively participating in learning in ways which help them to achieve their full potential, and playing a full part in college life, including activities like student representation” – *Scottish Funding Council*
- “always ensure that the diversity of student voices is heard” – *sparqs*

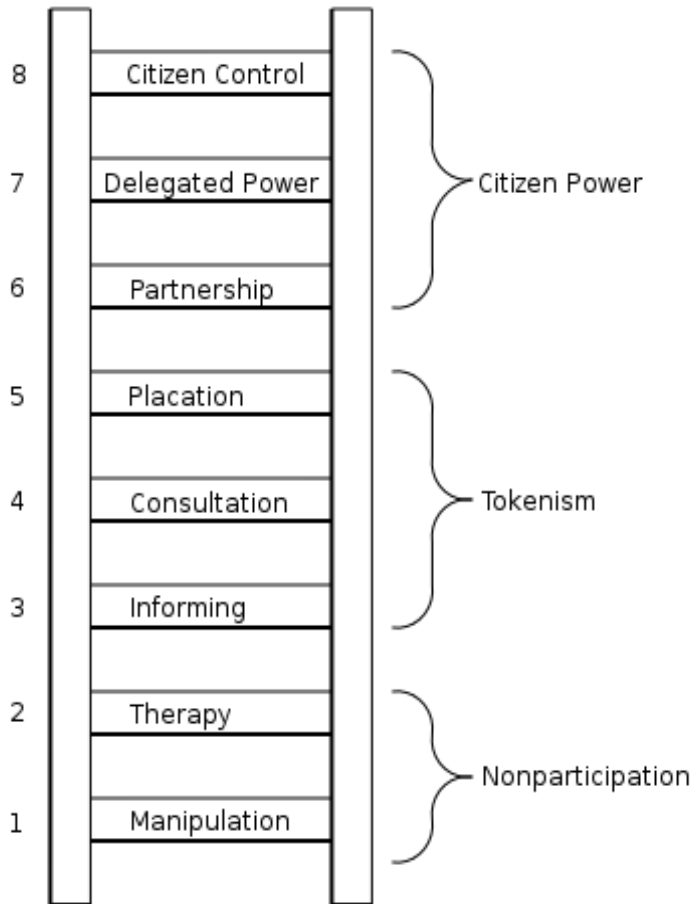


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When looking at learning technology, e-assessment, e-portfolios, what constitutes *meaningful* engagement for students?



# Arnstein's Ladder of Participation



- Where does your practice sit on this ladder?
- What are you aiming for?
- What barriers exist?



# A Student Engagement Framework for Scotland

There are six features of effective student engagement:

1. A culture of engagement.
2. Students as partners.
3. Responding to diversity.
4. Valuing the student contribution.
5. Focus on enhancement and change.
6. Appropriate resources and support.



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# A Student Engagement Framework for Scotland

There are five key elements:

1. Students feeling part of a supportive institution.
2. Students engaging in their own learning.
3. Students working with their institution in shaping the direction of learning.
4. Formal mechanisms for quality and governance.
5. Influencing the student experience at national level.

The use of the term 'learning' throughout the framework can apply to learning, teaching and assessment.



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# Students as Partners



- Policy and practice in Scotland
- Barriers to effective engagement
- How can students influence decision makers?



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# E-portfolio redesign



- How can we involve students?
- To what extent are students 'experts' in their own learning?



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# Case Study: Forth Valley College



**Making Learning Work**



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# Method



- Focus Groups
- Student-led redesign
- Engagement with the Students' Association



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# Outcomes



- 3 Class Rep 'first responders'
- 3 'student teachers'
- Students at the forefront of design and development



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# Train the Trainer



- What skills does a student first responder need?
- What tools do they need?
- What support do they need from the institution?



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