

Developing A Culturally Responsive and Inclusive Curriculum

Dr. JaDora Sailes

Assistant Professor

Indiana State University, Bayh College of Education



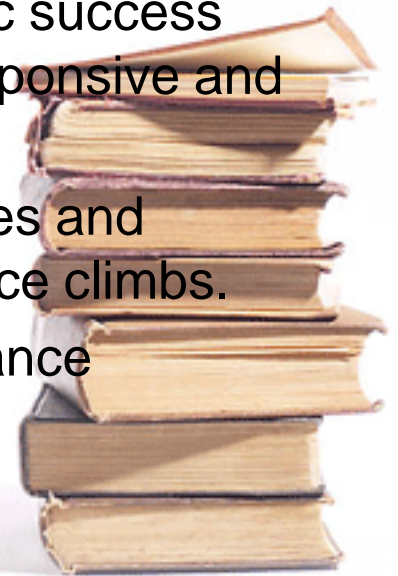


Why is
Culturally Responsive
and Inclusive
Teaching
So
Important?



Culturally Responsive Teaching Closes the Achievement Gap

- Students of color tend to have higher academic, personal and social performance when taught by culturally responsive teachers.
- Students with special needs have higher academic success and graduation rates when taught by culturally responsive and inclusive teachers.
- When using culturally responsive teaching practices and content specific approaches, academic performance climbs.
- Culturally responsive teachers have high performance expectations for all students.



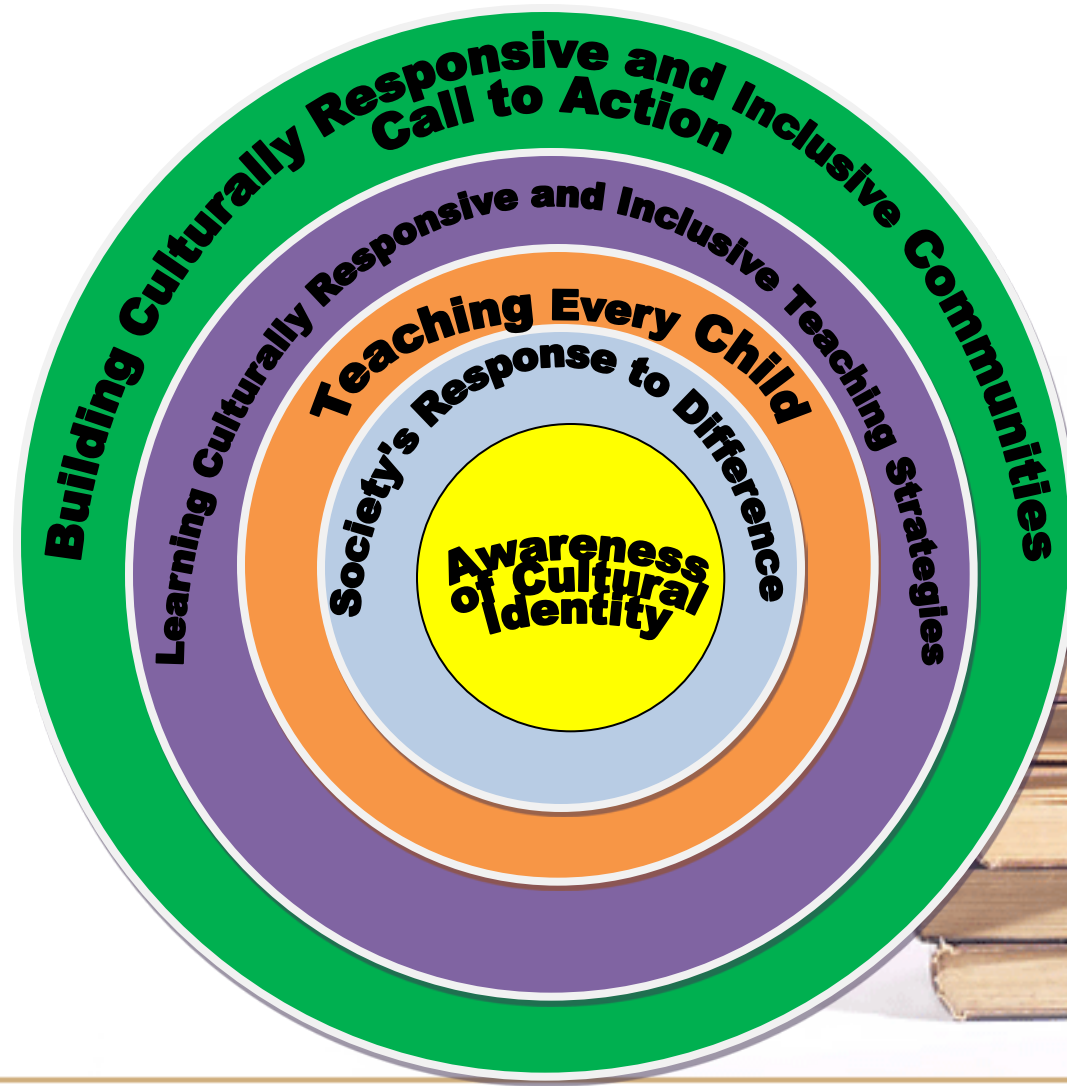
Looking from Within

When I do not know myself, I cannot know who my students are. I will see them through a glass darkly, in the shadows of my unexamined life – and when I cannot see them clearly, I cannot teach them well.

Palmer, P. (1998). *The Courage to Teach*.



Conceptual Framework



The Role of Culture in Learning



Culture influences the way Students learn.



Teachers must understand the culture of their students and translate this understanding into instructional practice



Much of the difficulty students experience is due to cultural incongruity between the school's culture and the student's culture



Classroom teachers can create the desired environment of cultural synchronization or congruence by culturally contextualizing the teaching-learning processes

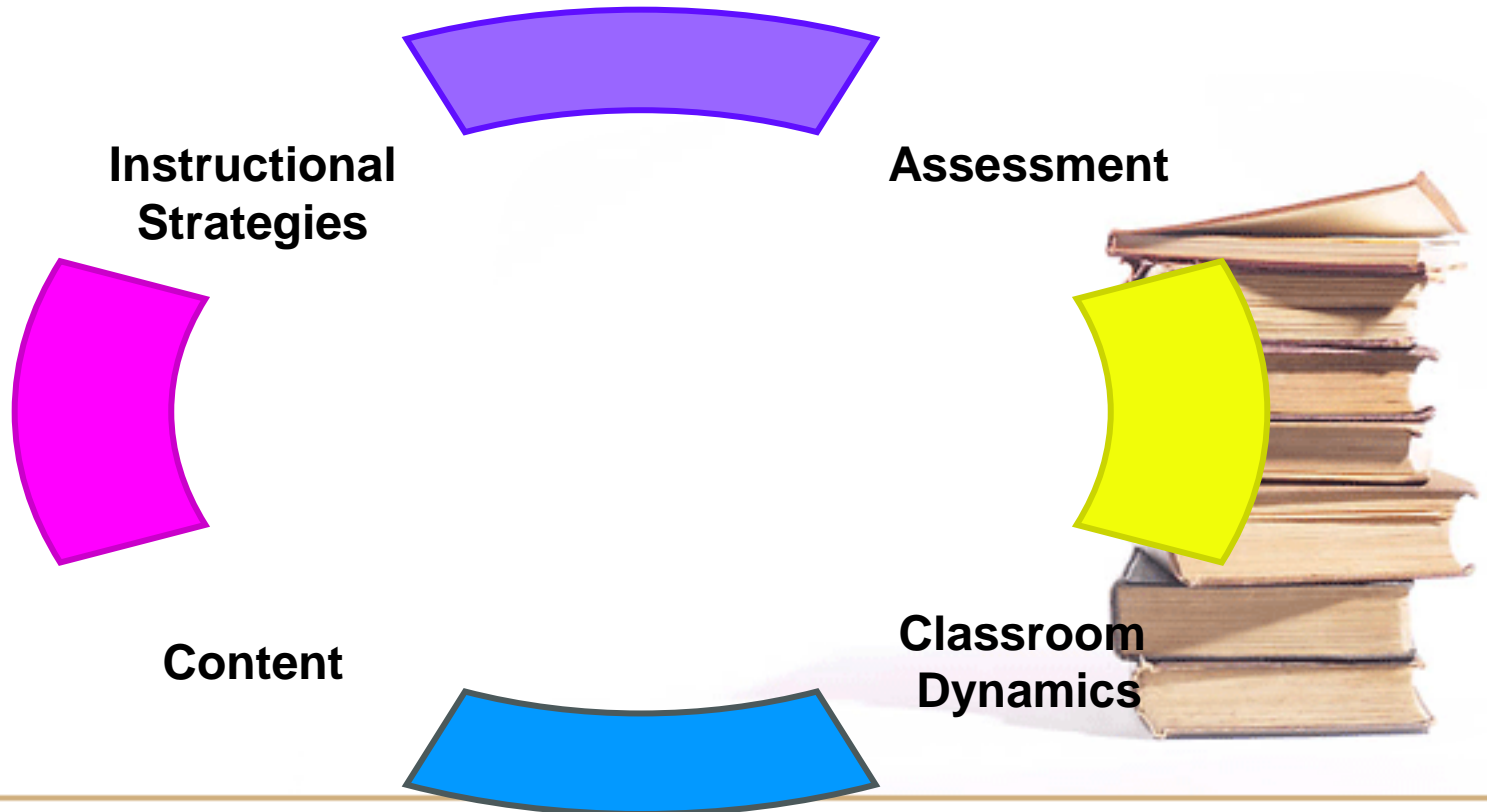


The Classroom Mosaic: Culture and Learning

- <http://www.learner.org/resources/series172.html#jump1>



4 Elements for Multicultural Course Transformation



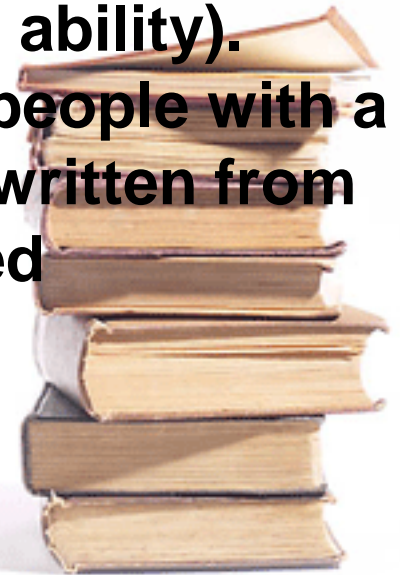
Content Example

Exclusive

The classroom library only contains books about people with a disability that are written from a helpless perspective

Culturally Responsive & Inclusive

Classroom library books celebrate diversity (i.e. families, race, ability). Books about people with a disability are written from an empowered perspective



Instructional Example

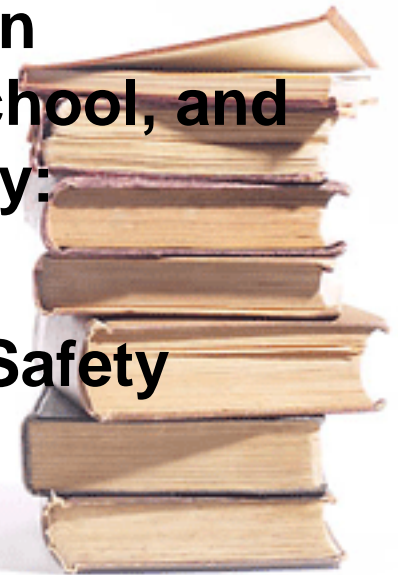
Exclusive

Teacher asks students to write down five questions related to an environment assignment; the teacher answers them

Culturally Responsive & Inclusive

Teacher and students research specific issues that are critical to the environment in classroom, school, and the community:

- **Recycling**
- **Classroom Safety**



Assessment Example

Exclusive

- **Teacher gives multiple choice tests only**

Culturally Responsive & Inclusive

- **In addition to incorporating a variety of modes of assessment (e.g. papers, projects, presentations) the teacher incorporates a reflective component which examines personal growth and the application of this knowledge to issues in society**



Classroom Dynamics Example

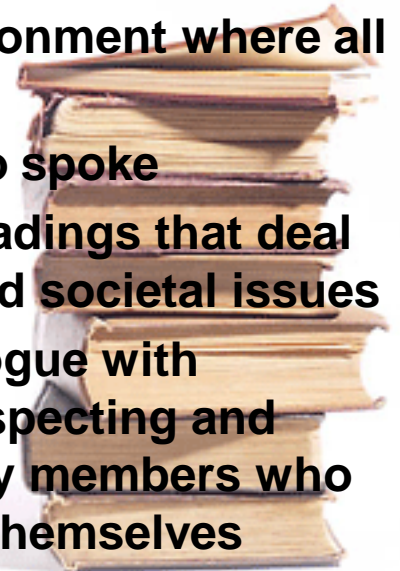
Exclusive

- **Teacher views silence as an indicator of comprehension and compliance**

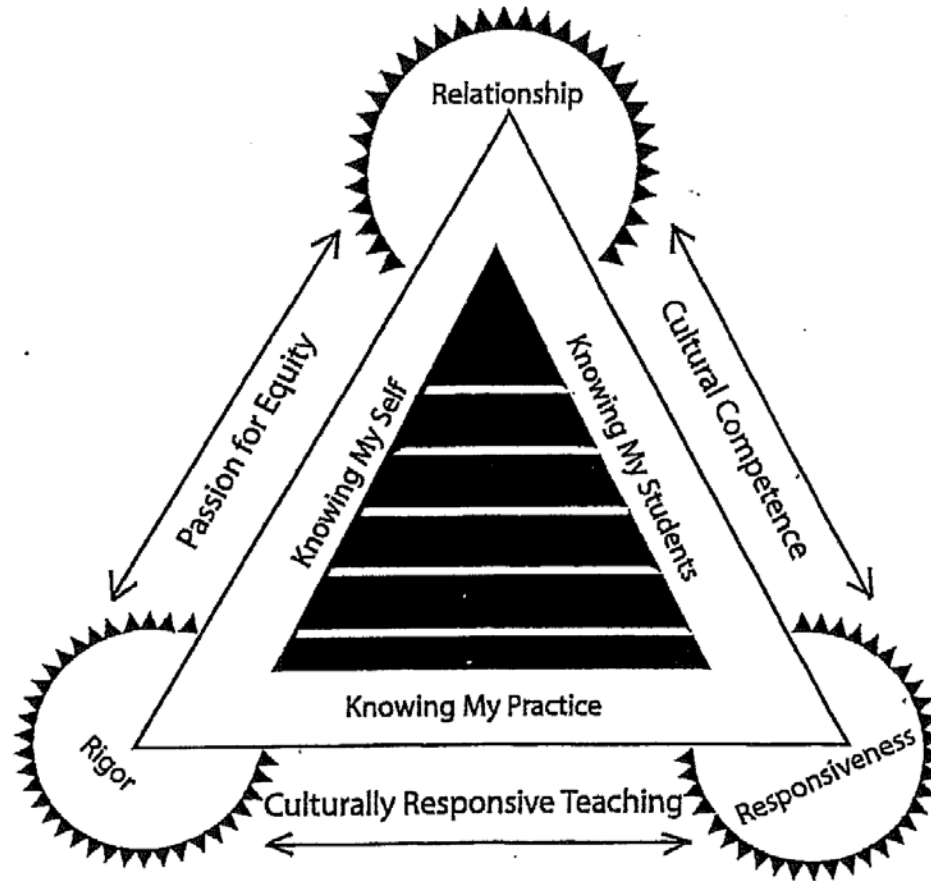
Culturally Responsive & Inclusive

Teacher ensures equity, peace, and respect by:

- **Engaging in one-on-one conversations**
- **Creating an environment where all voices are valued by monitoring who spoke**
- **Using specific readings that deal with classroom and societal issues**
- **Engaging in dialogue with students about respecting and valuing community members who are different than themselves**



Achievement Triangle



Copyright © Gary R. Howard.



Culturally Responsive and Inclusive Teaching Practices: An Ethic of Care

- A caring community offers all participants to consider and contribute to each other's well-being and learning.
- Children in a caring community learn to respect and acknowledge differences in abilities and talents, and to value each person for his or her strengths.
- Children in a caring community learn to respect and acknowledge cultural differences.
- The learning environment in a caring community provides a variety of materials and opportunities for children to have firsthand, and culturally relevant experiences.



Tomlinson, 2003

“In our multicultural society, culturally responsive teaching reflects democracy at its highest level. [It] means doing whatever it takes to ensure that every child is achieving and ever moving toward realizing her or his potential.”

--Joyce Taylor-Gibson



Thank You!

Dr. JaDora Sailes

Assistant Professor

**Indiana State University, Bayh
College of Education**

E-mail: jsailes@indstate.edu

Phone: 812-237-2872

