

Culturally Responsive Pedagogy: Some Key Features

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What Culturally Responsive Pedagogy (CRP) is *not*:

- A pre-determined curriculum
- A specific set of strategies
- A watering down of the curriculum
- A “feel-good” approach
- Only for students of particular backgrounds

What CRP *is*:

- A mindset that respects and honors students’ individuality as well as their cultures, experiences, and histories
- A way to include these in the curriculum and through teaching approaches
- A commitment to continuing to learn about one’s students’ individuality as well as their cultures, experiences, and histories
- A stance and a set of dispositions including:
 - Engaging in critical self-reflection about one’s values, biases, strengths, and limitations, and how these can affect one’s effectiveness with students of diverse backgrounds
 - Valuing language and culture in word and deed
 - Insisting on high quality and excellent work from all students
 - Affirming students’ identities while also expanding their world

- Honoring families
- Exemplifying a commitment to life-long learning

Some Practical Examples:

- Learn to say students' names correctly
- Label room with languages spoken by students
- Display the work of all students
- Learn as much as you can about your students
- Get to know your students' families by engaging in authentic family outreach
- Learn another language
- Learn about and become involved in the community

Recommended Brief Bibliography

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Other Resources in Multicultural Education

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This resource list contains information on organizations, agencies, journals and other resources that focus on diversity and multicultural education. Many are located in New England and the Northeast, but others are national in scope.

Engaging Schools (formerly Educators for Social Responsibility)

email: educators@esrnational.org

website: www.esrnational.org

Engaging Schools works directly with educators to implement systemic practices that create safe, caring, and equitable schools so that all young people succeed in school and life, and help shape a safe, democratic and just world. Founded in 1982, Engaging Schools is a national leader in school reform and provides professional development, consultation, and educational resources to adults who teach young people in preschool through high school.

Facing History and Ourselves National Foundation, Inc. (FHAO)

website: www.facing.org

Founded in 1976, FHAO is an international educational and professional development nonprofit organization whose mission is to engage students of

diverse backgrounds in an examination of racism, prejudice, and anti-Semitism in order to promote the development of a more humane and informed citizenry. By studying the historical development of the Holocaust and other examples of genocide, FHAO helps students make the essential connection between history and the moral choices they confront in their own lives.

Family Diversity Projects

website: <http://www.familydiv.org>

Family Diversity Projects educates students, educators, and the public about family diversity to help eliminate prejudice, stereotyping, and harassment based on sexual orientation, race, mental or physical disabilities, and other differences. They have developed a number of prize-winning photo exhibits about diverse families (*Love Makes a Family*, *Multiracial Families*, etc.).

Gay/Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)

website: <http://www.glaad.org>

With offices in Los Angeles and New York City, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is dedicated to promoting and ensuring fair, accurate and inclusive representation of people and events in the media as a means of eliminating homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE)

website: www.nabe.org

NABE is a professional association founded in 1975 to address the educational needs of language minority students. It hosts an annual conference and publishes a newsletter as well as a journal.

National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME)

website: www.nameorg.org

NAME is a professional organization founded in 1990 to promote multicultural education in the United States. NAME hosts a national conference and provides leadership in national and state dialogues on equity, diversity and multicultural education. NAME publishes a professional journal, *Multicultural Perspectives*.

National Women's History Project

website: www.nwhp.org

The National Women's History Project, founded in 1980, is an educational nonprofit organization whose mission it is to recognize and celebrate the diverse and historic accomplishments of women by providing information and educational materials and programs.

Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

website: www.tesol.org

This professional organization promotes scholarship, dissemination of information, and strengthening of instruction and research in the teaching of English to speakers of other languages. TESOL has a large annual international conference.

Teaching for Change

website: www.teachingforchange.org

A non-profit organization that promotes peace, justice, and human rights through critical, anti-racist, multicultural education. Through professional development and its publications, TFC provides teachers and parents with the tools to transform schools into centers of justice where students learn to read, write and change the world.

Some Specific Curriculum Resources

How We Feel: Hispanic Students Speak Out

Landmark Films, Inc.

(800) 342-4336

A moving film made by Virginia Vogel Zanger, it shows high school

Hispanic students talking about their school experiences in the United States.

It's Elementary: Talking About Gay issues in School

GroundSpark

1-800-405-3322

For professional development and classroom use, this award-winning film focuses on gay and lesbian issues in elementary and secondary schools.

Oliver Button is a Star

Published by Harcourt Brace and Company

Based on Tomie dePaola's classic children's book, this story teaches a powerful lesson about embracing differences, nurturing talent, and striving to achieve one's dreams.

California Newsreel

website: www.newsreel.org

California Newsreel has many videos appropriate for courses and inservice education, including *Blacks and Jews*, *Blue-Eyed*, *Ethnic Notions*, *Frosh*, *Shattering the Silences*, *Skin Deep*, and *The Case for Minority Faculty*.

Zinn Education Project

<http://www.zinnedproject.org>

The Zinn Education Project promotes and supports the use of Howard Zinn's best-selling book *A People's History of the United States* and other materials for

teaching a people's history in middle and high school classrooms across the country.

Rethinking Schools

website: <http://www.rethinkingschools.org>

A non-profit independent newspaper advocating the reform of elementary and secondary public schools with an emphasis on urban schools. Published by Milwaukee area teachers and educators.

Teaching Tolerance

<http://www.tolerance.org>

A project of the Southern Poverty Law Center, Teaching Tolerance includes a magazine and numerous other resources for teachers and schools to address issues of diversity and equity. Their magazine is available free for all educators, and they also provide free excellent resources (videos, posters, and others) to schools.

<http://www.edchange.org/multicultural>

Edchange was developed by Paul Gorski and lists free resources for multicultural educators, students, and activists.

<http://www.mhhe.com/multicultural>

A site focusing on multicultural resources for teachers and teacher educators with original resources on curriculum transformation, classroom activities, and research.

<http://www.blackpgs.com>

A great resource for Black history. Go especially to the THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY link.