



# Culturally Relevant Teaching

# All Means All

## 9 Things Culturally Relevant Educators Do

1

### Use High-Engagement Strategies

Never lecture for 45 minutes. If you do, it will be clear that you know the material, but you won't know if your students do until an assessment.

2

### Celebrate Academic Success

What you celebrate is what you value. Provide positive reinforcement for things other than sports, music, and entertainment. Dedicate a section of your classroom giving students praise for academic achievement.

3

### Build Relational Capacity

What can you get your students to do based solely on your relationship with them? Show students that you respect them and care for them. As Rita Pierson said, "Kids don't learn from people they don't like."

4

### Provide Scaffolding

You don't need to change what you're teaching, but consider changing how you deliver it. Scaffold your assignments by breaking them into manageable chunks and giving your students the tools they need to successfully complete each part.

5

### Include All Learning Styles

Create lesson plans that support left- and right-brained thinking. School is built for left-brained thinking. Provide more scaffolding and offer students more ways to show mastery of content.

6

### Build Movement and Collaboration Into Your Lessons

As adults, we expect the opportunity to move, stretch, and dialogue. Why wouldn't we let our students move and interact in their learning too?

7

### Activate Prior Knowledge

No matter what topic you're teaching, look for what your students can relate to and use that to increase their background knowledge. Build on that knowledge through your instruction.

8

### Identify and Develop Talents

Let your students show mastery of your class with their talents. Don't put ceilings on what your students can do. Put the floor underneath their feet.

9

### Try a New Seating Arrangement

Think about how you can arrange your classroom to be conducive to collaborative strategies. This allows your students to be collaborators and inquirers, and to learn more from each other. This way you can be the guide on the side (instead of the sage on the stage), and you'll become a facilitator of learning.

BONUS

### Establish Verbal and Non-Verbal Cues

Creating verbal, non-verbal, and call-and-response cues supports classroom management in a fun way and can create a positive culture in your class.