

Cultural Diversity in Classroom

Working with diverse learners has enabled me to be culturally sensitive throughout my teaching career. I always keep an open dialogue with my learners to have a deeper understanding of their culture. According to Kumi-Yeboah, an instructor needs to be sensitive to every learner's culture, language, and beliefs that define a given culture (2018). As a white, I have a basic cultural understanding of the white community. However, through teaching diverse learners, I have understood the cultural nuances of other races like Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, and other races in the country. Although I have learned some basic cultural nuances from various public and private schools that I have been in, continuing to interact with these students has enabled me to understand their music, food; thus, leading to interactive and collaborative teaching and learning.

Additionally, my high-level cultural competence has enabled me to work with diverse students easier by creating classroom flexibility. As a liberal white male teacher, I have noticed that performance in a diverse classroom depends on teachers' and students' freedom and flexibility (Darling-Hammond et al., 2020). I have never been strict and authoritative to my students because I recognize cultural differences between them. However, I always allow my students to share their experiences with others. The latter helps me have the best connection and a fundamental approach to handling a topic based on their experiences. When I was teaching in public secondary schools, I always allowed my learners to share their experiences and debate on their understanding about an issue; thus, enabling other students to understand the cultural perspective on an issue based on students' discussion and debates.

Working in a diverse classroom has enabled me to incorporate diversity in all my lesson plans. According to Fong et al., fostering a classroom environment and creating cultural awareness among learners is the ultimate goal of any instructor (2016). With this concept and my cultural competence, I have broadened my lesson plan beyond the whites and cultures to incorporate other races and give examples beyond the United States. A more comprehensive lesson plan enables us to understand their cultural origins and appreciate the rich history of the United States. I developed this technique of broadening my lesson plan in the most diverse private and public schools and incorporating every student.

Despite my high-level cultural competence, I need to improve my teaching styles to accommodate diverse races. In the United States, cultural diversity is associated with economic level. Most students of color in my class are economically disadvantaged compared to whites (Lederman, 2020). I have been biased toward the students of color because, as a middle-aged white man, I have always believed that internet access and computer devices should be primary learning material in all households. The latter is not the case in most students of color who cannot easily access the learning materials like the white learners who are advantaged on the same, making them depend majorly on classroom teachings.