

Diversity Dialogue

Introduction and Quest

Introduction

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines *diversity* as “the condition of having or being composed of differing element” (2014). It is imperative to understand that all persons in our society are diverse and finding respect for these differences make us better practitioners. In fact, the foundations of our society encourage us to talk respectfully to who hold different backgrounds than we do (Smith, 2012).

There are various categories that make people in society diverse. Categories of diversity may include: (a) ethnicity, (b) socioeconomic status, (c) spiritual and religious beliefs, (d) sexual preferences, (e) intellectual ability levels and (f) geographical regions. Some subgroups also may include educational background, occupation, and even levels of parent’s income. Smith (2012) labeled these categories as visible (e.g., race, gender) and invisible (e.g., spiritual and religious beliefs, sexual preferences) diversity and encouraged educators to celebrate the differences of the diversity to promote democracy in our society.

Quest

For the first 5 to 7 minutes of our face-to-face classes, the professor/instructor will provide teacher candidates with a video clip, article, current issue, et cetera which will have students critically think about issues of surrounding diversity. Important note: please make sure your resources are not heavy in research, so you can retain the students’ attention. These class discussions will be Socratic; however, the professor/instructor will urge the teacher candidates to discuss how they would be more culturally competent in their own classrooms.

These quests do not have to be delivered in any particular order.