

Considering EVERYTHING we have studied about issues related to diversity, what have you learned in Ed Psych and how will you use it in your classroom?

(Remember that you need to demonstrate your familiarity with the concepts in the text and those that were discussed in class by your use of example and explanation.)

The discussion held in class concerning the issues a first-year teacher would face regarding diversity really opened my eyes, especially when discussing a teacher's first "home visit." This is certainly a situation in which it would help to understand the complexity of diversity and get a good feel of the type of cultures I will be facing when my own school year begins as a first-year teacher. When being faced with multicultural experiences in and among my own classroom, I think it would only help that I have an optimistic viewpoint. Issues of diversity can be used to benefit my classroom.

I learned you have to cause yourself to become sympathetic. Your students can't control their family's socioeconomic status, the color of their skin, or the behaviors of the adults that they are exposed to in their home lives. As a teacher, I will give my best effort to make my students feel comfortable with where they are in the classroom, and who they are surrounded by while they are at school. Just because you are a certain way, doesn't make you incapable of achieving great things in and out of school. I will have to be aware of certain implications when handling diversity in my classroom. First of all, I will need to vary my instructional practices. Not every one of my students will learn in exactly the same way, especially if some students' resources are more limited than others. Not everyone will be on the same level, that's why I also have to get to know my students.

This means avoiding stereotyping, and self-fulfilling prophecies and learn about them as unique individuals with interests, talents and abilities. Having high expectations for all my students is also the way to go. I will have to avoid depersonalization as well. I can use my creativity in decorating my classroom and make it more inviting and personal for my students. My bulletin boards and decorations around the room will reflect the diversity of the students in my classroom and of course make it more interesting to look at.

The more I learn about myself, the more I realize how much of an influence my culture has on my lifestyle, morals, and myself in general. They're what makes me, me. But it's kind of like original sin, that is also what makes me, me. But it's not something to be proud of. The diversity of my classroom will make it unique in itself, and the cultures of my students are also what make them unique individuals. Celebrating that diversity will be a key ingredient in the learning process for my students.

This means I can also celebrate my love of food, and bring my students together by sharing some each other's favorite traditions.

Ultimately, dealing with diversity in the classroom will take effort not just from me but from my students too. It will also, over time, bring out better qualities in everyone and make the learning experiences of my students more enjoyable. The concepts my students learn in my classroom about diversity and culture will be able to translate to their lifestyles both now and in the future.