

Multicultural Issues
March 30, 2009
Class Profile Instructions

Total Points: 50

25 points for the individual questions

25 points for the Class Profile group assignment

Goal:

To discover the multicultural identity of your students by becoming familiar with relevant aspects of their background knowledge and experiences (Pathwise: Domain A)

Relation to knowledge base:

Tenet 3: One who understands, respects, and values diversity

Who / what?

Each student will compile a list of five questions to create a Class Profile survey in small groups.

When?

The five questions are due in class on **April 6 as a hard copy to me.**

Why?

Knowing your students' background knowledge and experiences helps you design meaningful learning goals for your students in an engaging and comfortable environment. Your teaching methods, learning activities, instructional materials, and evaluation strategies should be appropriately designed for all students in your classes.

For example, a common topic in foreign language classes is travel, but teaching specialized vocabulary related to air travel when most of your students have never flown would not be an appropriate lesson based on their background knowledge and experiences.

Knowing your students also increases your ability to create a learning environment in which students feel comfortable enough to take chances. For example, some students may feel uncomfortable drawing attention to themselves due to their cultural upbringing regarding pride and individual accomplishments. Rather than calling on them individually, you would consider other strategies to help them show what they know.

How?

Step One: Create **five** individual questions based on any of the following cultural identifiers: language, race, gender, social class, age, religion, exceptionality, geographic region, rural/urban/suburban, and ethnicity. Match each question to one of the identifiers.

For example, you might ask, “*What family celebration did you last attend?*” and put it in the category of ethnicity.

Step Two: Bring your five questions to class with your name and date on it.

Step Three: Share your questions with your group.

Step Four: Create your class profile questionnaire in your small group with one question per descriptor (language, race, gender, social class, age, religion, exceptionality, geographic region, rural/urban/suburban, and ethnicity--10 total)

Step Five: Turn the class profile questionnaire in to me **April 13** as a hard copy. Be sure and include how this assignment relates to you as an emerging professional. Note: this part of the assignment is individual because you have to include the connection to you as an emerging professional.

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