

15 Culturally-Relevant Teaching Strategies and Examples

- 1. Learn About Your Students:** Open communication should uncover your students' learning styles. Distribute surveys and questionnaires, and hold class discussions.
- 2. Interview Students:** Take each student aside for two minutes to ask about hobbies, favourite lessons and their preferred in-class exercises.
- 3. Integrate Relevant Word Problems:** Contextualize equations using word problems that reference student interests and cultures.
- 4. Present New Concepts Using Student Vocabulary:** Use student diction to capture attention and build understanding before using academic terms.
- 5. Bring in Guest Speakers:** Invite guest speakers who can add context to your lesson and speak from a specific culture's general perspective.
- 6. Use Learning Stations:** Provide a range of material by setting up learning stations.
- 7. Gamify Lessons:** Appeal to gaming culture by, for example, writing instruction manuals for projects and offering rewards such as badges.
- 8. Call on Each Student:** Encourage each student to share his or her thoughts through call-and-response, keeping the class's attention in the process.
- 9. Use Media that Positively Depict a Range of Cultures:** Include different cultures and languages in your curriculum by presenting relevant material, such as movies, about them.
- 10. Offer Different Types of Free Study Time:** Divide the class into sections similar to learning stations, using free study time to benefit different types of learners.
- 11. Encourage Students to Propose Ideas for Projects:** Let students take projects from concept to completion by pitching you ideas, allowing them to showcase their strengths.
- 12. Experiment with Peer Teaching:** Embrace student vocabulary and communal practices by allowing them to teach each other through exercises such as jigsaw activities.
- 13. Establish Cooperative Base Groups:** Schedule meeting times and make agendas for groups of three to four students, allowing them to review lessons and answer each other's questions.



14. Run Problem-Based Learning Scenarios: Present relatable real-world problems for your students to solve, explicitly referencing cultures and communities when applicable.

15. Involve Parents by Using Take-Home Letters: Open the door to parent participation when starting a new unit or trying an education tool for the first time. Parents can provide cultural context, and act as the main educators in many societies.

