Assignment 1: Culturally Responsible Pedagogy

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1. “Everyone is an educator”

“Everyone is an educator” means that people can learn from our words and actions at any time and any place. Jeffrey Dessources uses Harriet Tubman as an example of someone who did not know her actions would become one of the most heroic movements in history. And in order to be a culturally responsive instructor, you must take risks with diversified views. I agree that people who influence learning must step out of his/her comfort zone and take interest in what education actually means to the student.

2. “Everyone is also a student”

“Everyone is also a student” means that learning is a journey and not a destination. My grandmother always reminded me that we never stop learning because life is always changing. Similarly, Jeffrey Dessources emphasizes the importance of learning about our students’ interests and concerns. In order to become an effective teacher, we must first become a student and learn about the things that matter to today’s children, teens, and adults. By learning what is relevant to the students in our class and infusing this to their learning, we can provide tailored teaching and raise the level of communication.

3. What does Culturally Responsive Teaching mean to you?

Authenticity is a common theme in both “What is Culturally Responsive Pedagogy” and Prezi’s 7 Principles for Culturally Responsive Teaching. Jeffrey Dessources stresses the importance of authentic communication with the students and Prezi emphasizes that “students get it that we like them”. In order for the teacher to establish a friendly learning environment, the teacher must lead by example his/her sincerity to the students. This is the basic foundation for culturally responsive teaching. Students should feel safe to share their thoughts and experiences so they can develop ways to incorporate that into their learning.

4. Cultural Proficiency Continuum Self Assessment:

I believe I am Culturally Proficient. While considerate of cultural differences and their relevance, I am not hypersensitive to the same. Over twenty years of experience in global business, I have seen extreme right of the continuum cases where the “political correctness” bordered unprofessional bias. That is why I am mindful not to make any generalizations based on one occurrence and bring that into a meeting. Also I choose my words carefully to avoid miscommunication or cause cultural misunderstanding.