Better Teaching for A Better World:
A Philosophy of Diversity in My Classroom

There is no doubt that the cultural climate inside classrooms is changing. There are many different cultures now being displayed which requires a specific response from teachers. As a future teacher myself, I must be able to take the cultures that I am given and then build a curriculum that includes all of my students and makes them feel welcomed. Since my students will differ in more than the typical ways demonstrated before, I will take all of the different cultures presented and create lessons that will help them all understand one another and build respect for one another. I hope that through my openness, my students will learn to accept everybody for who they are, rather than what they look like.

While being culturally rounded is an essential characteristic to have, I believe it is vital for each child to be knowledgeable on their individual roots that created them. As a teacher, I will have my students directly focus in on who they are; I want to teach each student to embrace themself. As an experienced adult, I find myself particularly drawn to the differences among cultures and experiences that people have undergone, and I want my students to feel this, as well. Rather than teaching my students to be shameful of their differences, I want them to be proud of each unique factor that creates them, regardless of their social status. To help students seize their cultures and backgrounds, I will implement a “Student of the Week” program within my classroom. This will allow students to collect pictures and information about themselves, and then take the time at the beginning of the week to present their project to the class. This will provide an excellent opportunity for them to elaborate on why they believe they are lucky to be who they are. Hopefully, students will quickly overcome any feelings of shyness. After my students are taught to appreciate each child’s uniqueness, my goal is that students will learn to
befriend classmates, despite any initial impressions, and they will learn to judge a person based on their character instead of their appearance.

When I am teacher, I will be aware of different cultures in the classroom and I can then build a curriculum that captures all of the vast differences in the world. It is important to know where my students have come from. Rather than ignoring their differences and grouping everybody as a whole, I believe it is better to acknowledge each student’s individual characteristics. Not only does this help expose students to a variety of cultures, but it also helps to maintain the structure of children’s cultures. By teaching them about many cultures, it will also allow students to become aware of what is going on around them. This promotes a rich, culture-filled learning environment that grants students the access to see into many cultures from the comfort of their own chairs. As a future teacher, I can take these opportunities and create a learning lesson. I can use fun filled activities which allow the students to peer into another culture and compare their differences and similarities. To incorporate these types of activities, we can create a unique passport assignment where we spend time learning about everybody’s homeland and expand into other cultures as well. This will allow them to establish a wide variety of social and cultural viewpoints. In return, I hope to build the beginnings of strong, respectful individuals that feel valued and learn to value one another, regardless of what they look like.

Due to the structure of my classroom and how we approach learning opportunities, my students will promptly learn that our classroom is a place filled with respect. This will inspire healthy and cheerful friendships in my class. I will encourage my students to speak up, particularly the students who seem to be soft spoken, and allow them to speak without worry of judgment from other students. I want my students to know from the beginning that my classroom is a safe place where they should have no fear to share their experiences. To help encourage this,
my classroom will be visually colorful; it will be the type of classroom that is “picture perfect” and will be depicted this way from the variety of pictures, bulletin boards, colors, and student projects covering the walls. My respectful classroom will be built with positive feedback from myself, answering any question with cheerfulness and care. Responding to students’ questions with respect will set an example for my students as well. Hopefully, my students will react in similar ways, full of calmness and respect for another person, which will create a wonderful atmosphere to learn in.

As a teacher, it will be my job to guide students through their learning. I believe that the best environment for students to experience is one that is built with students in mind. I will implement a student-centered classroom which allows students to learn with their worries behind them. Rather than working as individuals, my classroom will lean towards group work. I will let my students know that it is okay to mingle amongst one another and to solve problems together rather than immediately asking for help. At the same time, this will help mature their ability to solve problems on their own. I will encourage my students to learn from each other and share ideas. I want them to understand that while I can provide easy answers to their questions, we are all working as a team to challenge ourselves and find answers to the problems presented.

Due to my accepting nature, I will have many advantages as a teacher. As an individual, I am very accepting of people, no matter what they may have been through, what they have encountered, or what their culture is. I will always be open to hear input from my students; I will never discourage them from talking. Instead, I will push them to express themselves without shame by assigning projects that correlate with what we are doing in class. For example, at the beginning of the year when we are all getting to know one another, I will have my students create a self-portrait. When my students complete any projects, I will be certain to hang them or
post them in my room to encourage pride in themselves and their work. From the very beginning of the school year, I will set high expectations for all of my students. They will know that I have such high expectations, but that I will also offer them patience and support. If they were to ever need extra help, I would help them without any questions asked. I will never give up on my students because I know that they deserve the best education possible.

After my students spend a year with me, I hope that they are able to grow and become better individuals. Once they have “traveled” the world through all the cultural experiences presented, my goal is to have composed a fine group of students that respect and can relate to one another on many different levels. In the end, my students will be setting an example for everybody whom they come into contact with. Hopefully, through their respectful and caring manners, those around them will follow their lead as well.
In my philosophy of diverse teaching, “Better Teaching for A Better World”, I acknowledge the ways and strategies that I can implement into my classroom. These methods will respect all of the diverse students that I may encounter, and it will also demonstrate how I can support each student during their learning process. Not only am I guiding them to learn, but I am also helping to shape them into better human beings. I am greatly anticipating when I will be able to carry out my future plans; to help out all of my students and teach them to their best ability, no matter where they come from.