

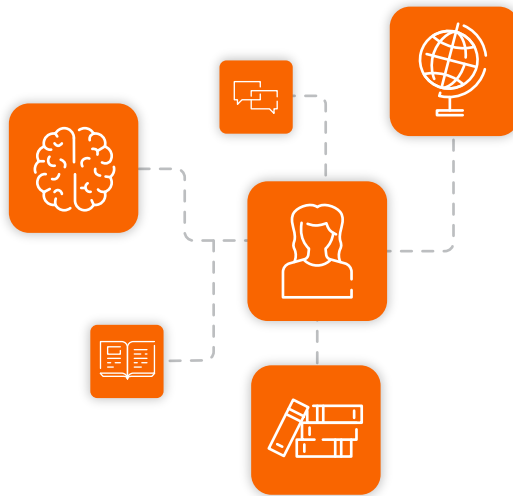


Understanding the

# Role of Culture in the Classroom

## What Defines Culture?

Shared beliefs, attitudes, and practices that are passed down through generations.



## We All Have Many Cultures

**Childhood Experiences**

**Professional Career**

**Religious Practices**

**Heritage & Background**



## Why Is Cultural Awareness Important?

Acknowledging our unique cultural identity helps us understand and appreciate how others may relate to their own culture.

## How Can We Practice Cultural Awareness?

Creating a place for culture in the classroom is a two-fold process:



### Cultural Attunement

Seeking knowledge about another person's culture with an open, curious mind.

#### Build Awareness Through Curiosity

Practice learning about your students using resources available to you, including:

- Photo Rosters
- Icebreakers
- Polls & Minute Papers
- Teleconferencing Backgrounds



### Cultural Responsiveness

Creating connections between people based on an understanding of cultural identity.

#### Finetune the Classroom Environment

Consider the unique identities of your students to create a welcoming learning space for all:

- Build a Diverse Syllabus
- Address Implicit Biases
- Practice Openness & Empathy

## Everyday Tips for Practicing Cultural Awareness

### 1 | Always Leave Time for Questions:



Involve students by giving them opportunities to use their voices so you can learn to prioritize their needs.

### 2 | Tell Students About Yourself:



Being open and honest about your identity helps create a foundation of trust.

### 3 | Be Aware of Your Timing:



Review due dates at the start of the semester and invite students to provide their input before finalizing the syllabus.

### 4 | Exercise Equity in Communication:



Make sure that all students share equal access to assignments and feedback.

### 5 | Avoid Micro-Aggressions:



Respect each student's unique identity over their unchangeable characteristics (i.e.: Calling a Hispanic student the name of another Hispanic student).

### 6 | Create a Safe Space:



Practice emotional intelligence by considering the viewpoints of others and allowing events outside the classroom to inform your lessons.

