

# When Culture Meets The Classroom

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Carroll County School System



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# Stereotypes and Cultural Bias

Unintentional biases and assumptions:

An ELL does not understand English, therefore they don't understand the classroom material.

ELLs are less intelligent than their native English speaking peers because they may be less willing to approach a teacher for extra help or tutoring.



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# Stereotypes and Cultural Bias

Many Students, Many Nations

Don't assume that students who share a common native language will share similar cultural backgrounds.

Recognized racial and ethnic groups in the United States are rarely – if ever – homogenous.



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# In a Multicultural Classroom

Not just the F's of culture...

Not just the F's of culture (food, flags, festivals), but deep culture.

Create a learning environment that recognizes students' different cultures in a meaningful way.

Develop good listening skills – asking questions in a non-invasive, non-threatening manner.



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# In a Multicultural Classroom

We want to share cultures through...

1. Autobiographical writing assignments.
2. Oral presentations on ELL's native countries.
3. Participating in a school talent show to showcase culturally unique skills.
4. Comparing and contrasting holidays in different countries, perhaps through classroom or school-wide celebrations.



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# In a Multicultural Classroom

We want to share cultures through...

5. Organizing ESL students to provide peer tutoring to other students studying their native languages.
6. Discussing current events from a multicultural viewpoint.
7. Organizing a cultural bazaar to share ESL students' cultures with the larger school community.



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# Being Bilingual and Bicultural

It's not just for the foreigners

The goal of the ESOL program?

- ✓ Bilingual students

The goal of multicultural classroom?

- ✓ Bicultural students

Practice cultural sensitivity toward students' native countries.

Encourage students to learn about their new culture.



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# Being Bilingual and Bicultural

Promoting multiculturalism

1. Taking polls of students' traditions and beliefs.
2. Visiting regional attractions for an appreciation of local culture.
3. Question and answer sessions about different cultures.
4. Compare and contrast old and new culture.



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# Being Bilingual and Bicultural

## Importance of Biculturalism

Impress upon students the value

of:

embracing and understanding their new culture.

while still celebrating their old cultures.



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# Questions or Comments?



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