

P-Based Culturally Relevant Pedagogy:

A Quick Guide for Teachers



Why Culturally Responsive Teaching?

Ethnic and racial diversity is increasing within student populations in all classrooms. P-based culturally responsive teaching provides the quality equitable STEM education for students that reflects their living experiences and values cultural practices. P-based culturally responsive teaching support strategies involving community highlighting the importance of connecting STEM curriculum to students' lives and the community in which they live. Marginalized underrepresented students, through such connections, visualize STEM mirroring their lives which deepens their knowledge of science concepts, develops agency in STEM, and ultimately leads to considering careers in science.¹ Another goal of this chapter is to provide culturally responsive teaching practices, examples of p-based culturally responsive activities and resources in which teachers incorporate within their classrooms inspiring student interests within the fields of STEM.

What is Culturally Responsive Teaching?

Culturally Responsive Teaching practices (CRT) recognizes, respects, and uses cultural characteristics, experiences, and perspectives of ethnically diverse students and backgrounds as meaningful sources for creating optimal learning environments. The goal focuses on improving scholarly success of diverse students by acknowledging their culture, prior knowledge, experiences, and perspectives all while taught in a familiar context. When students are taught through the lens of their own culture and experiences, the learning experience becomes meaningful, thus making instruction more effective.² Gay (2002) describes five elements of culturally responsive teaching: 1) develop a cultural diversity knowledge base, 2) design culturally relevant curricula, 3) demonstrate cultural caring and build a learning community, 4) provide cross-cultural communications, and 5) use cultural congruity in classroom instruction.³ Below, you will find an expansion of two suggested CRT strategies to begin implementing within your classroom.

Example Resources for Culturally Relevant Teaching

1. [Strategies for Building Cultural Competency](#)

Understand the cultural characteristics/contributions of your diverse students

2. [6 Ways Teachers can Foster Cultural Awareness in the Classroom](#)

Convert your cultural diversity knowledge base and integrate cultural awareness/sensitivity into your curriculum

¹ Next generation science standards. (2013). Retrieved August 23, 2020, from <https://www.nextgenscience.org/>

² Santiago, A. (2017). Focusing on cultural competency in STEM education. *Informal Science*, 1-16.

³ Gay, G. (2002). Preparing for Culturally Responsive Teaching. *Journal of Teacher Education*, 53(2), 106-116.