



## The Heart of Culturally Responsive Lesson Design

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### **A little bit about Nyree**

- ❑ Curriculum Program Specialist (CPS) in educational technology TK-6 in Colton Joint Unified School District.
- ❑ Prior to being an edtech TOSA Nyree taught in the elementary school classroom.

*"Invest in students beyond the content. What students know you're investing in them, they know they matter."*

*"The first time you know you belong is when you can SEE yourself."*

### **What is Culturally Responsive Teaching?**

- CRT is a mindset! It's often described differently because everyone has a different mindset.
- Distinctions of Equity by Z. Hammond
- Multicultural education
  - Creating social harmony
- Social justice education
  - Becoming critical of the environment and the structures in place.
- Culturally responsive teaching
  - Thinking "how can I connect my students' culture and content?"
  - Bring all experiences to the content.

- When you're being a culturally responsive teacher you are making sure that all students achieve academically through the lens of their culture.
- [Betina Love](#)
  - Make sure that students feel like they matter

### **How do we show students that they matter?**

- Create those relationships with students.
  - This is not something new! Teachers already do this.
  - Going deeper than just meeting them.
  - Invest in students beyond the content. What students know you're investing in them, they know they matter.

### **Taking CRT beyond building relationships**

- You aren't just building relationships to get to know the kids you are purposefully getting to know the students so that you can connect their experiences to the content.
- Start with yourself. What are you bringing into the space?
  - Have you examined your own biases and triggers?
  - What is my own culture bringing into this space?
    - You don't want your kids to know you have a trigger.
  - What can you do to analyze yourself?
    - Get comfortable with being uncomfortable as you analyze yourself.
      - [Questionnaire to analyze your own bias.](#)
      - Doing the work starts with being aware.
      - [5 Keys to Challenging Implicit Bias](#)
      - Have those conversations with others as you unpacked those biases.
        - Ask someone else "I noticed this. Do you see that in me?"
        - It's OK to make mistakes. We can grow from it.
        - You can't undo what has already been done but you can do better going forward.
        - Do your best not to repeat mistakes. Learn from your lessons.
        - We are not going to be empowering if we are stuck in a place of fear of failure.
        - Be honest with your students! Let your students see that adults can apologize too.

- Students need to feel safe so they are comfortable taking risks.
  - Teachers are the same! We don't want to make mistakes so we don't try.
  - You have to treat that trust in the relationship carefully so that you don't lose it.

### **CRT in remote teaching**

- Take explicit time to build community
  - [Esther's resources](#)

### **How do we make sure that we bring in students' culture?**

- There are LOTS of resources out there! You don't have to create content. You have to be intentional as you find existing resources on culturally responsive teaching.
- Look for positive representations of the student's culture.
  - Show representations of people from their culture thriving
  - Leticia Citizen's Primary Resources
    - [bit.ly/HistHyper20](http://bit.ly/HistHyper20)
    - [bit.ly/CloselyRead](http://bit.ly/CloselyRead)
- Offer choice so that students can decide on how they want to make their learning visible.
  - Write a rap
  - Make a sketchnote
  - Create a podcast

### **Building culturally responsive lessons**

- [Template for designing lessons](#)
- Four principals
  - Spark knowledge
    - What do students know
  - Support and scaffold
  - Synthesize
    - How are students able to process what they are learning?
    - All students get the same level of rigor?
  - Share
    - How are you sharing your learning?
    - Connect it to the systems and teach students how to code switch.
      - Home
      - Community
      - School

- Empower students to share their knowledge. Teach them how to be their own advocate.
- It's so important to teach students what the words mean.
  - Teach students the words to express what's happening.
  - Don't be afraid to do the work!
  - Teachers have to be aware of the need to have these conversations and the choice to not have them is a privilege.
  - Empowerment clubs can encourage student groups.

### **Doing the work as an educator**

- Book clubs are SUPER helpful for us to grow with others.
- If you feel isolated, don't do it alone.
- Add to the conversation!
  - It doesn't feel good when you're uncomfortable but you will feel stronger for going through it.
  - Stay in it with feedback.
- Try it then lean on your PLN as you work through it.
- Have positive words of affirmation.
  - Students may ONLY hear these positive words in your class.

### **Example CRT Lesson: The Day You Begin**

- Using the template this lesson was created as an example and used by a 2nd grade teacher Nyree works with.
- Focused on Diversity standard
- [Teaching Tolerance Social Justice Standards](#)
- Embedded through that lesson design template is social emotional learning.

### **Final thoughts on CRT**

- Just take a first step and build on it!
- You don't have to go 0 to 60.
- You don't have to know ALL the things to get started.
- Get feedback from your students. Ask for their thoughts.
- You are NOT alone in this journey!
  - [Ask Yariza](#)
  - [Color CodEd](#)

### **Related posts on the Ditch That Textbook blog:**

- [The SEL classroom checklist](#)

**Resources:**

- [Wakelet Resource](#)