

Engaging in Self-Reflection: My Cultural Awareness Profile MyCAP

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Reflection in Teacher Education

- Hallmark of Teacher Education
- Numerous Models for Reflective Practice
 - Coursework
 - Seminar
 - Clinic (School-based)
- Inquiry
- Experiential
- Leadership

Reflection in Teacher Education

We need to leverage what we already do well in our efforts to prepare culturally and globally competent teachers.

Culture and Education

“School...takes place within a complex
socio-cultural ecology
and is filtered through cultural screens
both students and teachers
bring to the classroom” (p. 54)

Multicultural Teacher Education

- Multicultural Coursework
 - Socio-cultural foundations
 - Academic knowledge
- Experiential - Domestic Diversity
 - Clinics in urban/ diverse schools
 - Community-based Field Experiences

Promoting Reflection on Culture

- Leverage Existing Reflective Practice
- Consider a Developmental Stance
- Address Challenges...

Challenges: Pre-Service Teachers

Majority of teachers will continue to be White, middle-class, European-American

- Lack Cultural Consciousness
- Limited Intercultural Experiences
- Culture-Blind Approach to Teaching
- Resistance to Discussions of Race and Culture

Challenges: Domestic Placements

- Can positively impact attitudes towards diversity
- May produce and/or reinforce existing ethnocentric and stereotypical attitudes
- Pre-service teachers socialized as students, don't question or confront hegemonic practices
- Can continue to function within the dominant culture, maintain unexamined cultural identity

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- International and Global Perspective:
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 - Global Connections
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- Cultural Other:
 - Experience self as “cultural”; they are the ones who are different
 - Full immersion – no going home to “normal”
- Communicating Across Culture:
 - Need to understand cultural context
 - Requires communicating across differences
 - Need to adapt and accommodate to “fit in” to succeed

“Culture hides much more than it reveals and, strangely enough, what it hides, it hides most effectively from its own participants...

the ultimate purpose of the study of culture is not so much the understanding of foreign cultures as much as the light that study sheds on our own.”

Becoming Culturally Aware....

- Cultural learning doesn't happen automatically
- Requires opportunities for self-reflection and dialog
- Cultural learning needs to be facilitated and scaffolded
- Is developed overtime and requires direct experiences
- Students must engage in a process and see their growth

My Cultural Awareness Profile (MyCAP)

- Engage in Cultural Self-Reflection
- Facilitate Cultural Discourse
- Encourage Active Participation in Own Cultural Growth

My Cultural Awareness Profile

- Self-Reflection Tool
- 40 questions, Survey and Open-ended
- Generates a Profile to use in Discourse
- Facilitates a Cultural Learning Action Plan
- Iterative - See and Reflect on Growth

4 Dimensions of Cultural and Global Awareness

- Exploring the Global World
(Global Perspective)
- Learning about Different Cultures
(Cultural Understanding)
- Knowing Ourselves as Cultural
(Perspective Consciousness)
- Communicating Across Cultural Difference
(Intercultural Competence)

Exploring the Global World

- Global Perspective
- Systems Thinking
- Local and Global Connections
- Global Citizenship

Exploring the Global World

“I hadn’t thought about being a global citizen. But now I’m thinking that citizens have responsibilities and privileges. I don’t know if I’ve thought about my responsibilities beyond my country...”

Learning about Different Cultures

- Knowledge of Other Culture Groups
- Diversity of Cultural Practices
- Cultural Inquiry

Learning about Different Cultures

- “When you are asked to talk about characteristics of another culture group, you focus on those things that are different than yours and you focus on negative things... I don’t know why. Is that just an innate thing to judge and evaluate based on your own culture, to think it is better?”

Knowing Ourselves as Cultural

- Develop Own Cultural Identity
- Understand Cultural Context
- Accept and Affirm Cultural Differences
- Confront Issues of Power and Privilege

Knowing Ourselves as Cultural

“I think the hardest part about this was that I personally don’t have an idea of my culture... For my culture, white suburban, upper middleclass, like what does that even mean?”

Communicating Across Cultural Differences

- Develop Cultural Empathy
 - (empathy as different from sympathy)
- Understand Cultural Perspective
- Verbal and Non-verbal Communication
- Adapt own Communication Styles

Communicating Across Cultural Differences

“You don’t even know if you are nice to people, like what they think you really mean...So much of it is trying to understand how the other person is perceiving you.”

Next Steps

- The Tool is a work in progress to be completed in the upcoming months
- Round Table Discussions