

Cultural Awareness & Cross-Cultural Communication

Beginning the
conversation...Part 1



Helen Tinsley
NJ Department of Education

Objective of Workshop

- To increase the level of consciousness pertaining to diversity, racial and cultural awareness
- To provide a framework for beginning a conversation in your school or district about cultural diversity and cross-cultural communication

Objective...cont...

Participants will engage in:

- Readings
- Individual and small group activities
- Video clips
- Discussions
- Hands-on activities





Poem: Human Family

By Maya Angelou



4 Areas of Focus

Self Awareness - Understanding your self and identifying your personal biases .

Background knowledge - Broadening your knowledge regarding diverse groups.

Classroom Activities - Facilitating multicultural activities that make connections to all children .

Family Engagement: Involving families in authentic ways as active participants in their child's education.



PARAMETERS FOR WORKSHOP

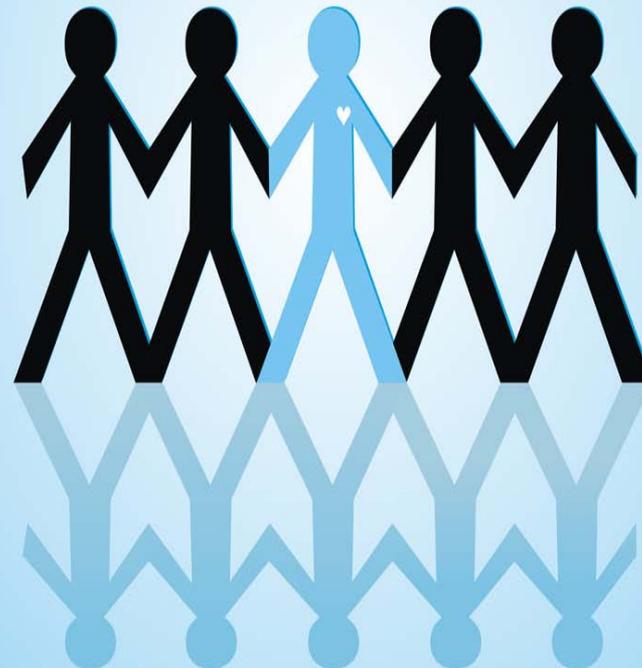
Respect all opinions and people.

Agree to disagree.

Maintain a safe environment to openly express ideas, thoughts and feelings.

Be confidential.

Keep it Real!



Be Yourself!

New Jersey Statistics

Child Population by gender	2008	51 % male 49 % female
Child population by race	2008	54 % White 21 % Hispanic 15 % Black 8 % Asian 2% Bi-racial 0 % American Indian 0 % Alaskan Native 0 % Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
Child population by nativity	2008	94% Native-born 6% Foreign born
Children that speak a language other than English at home	2008	26% (386,000)
Number of languages spoken in NJ schools	2008-2009	187
Children in immigrant families	2008	32% (652,000)
Source: NJ Kids Count 2010 - ACNJ		

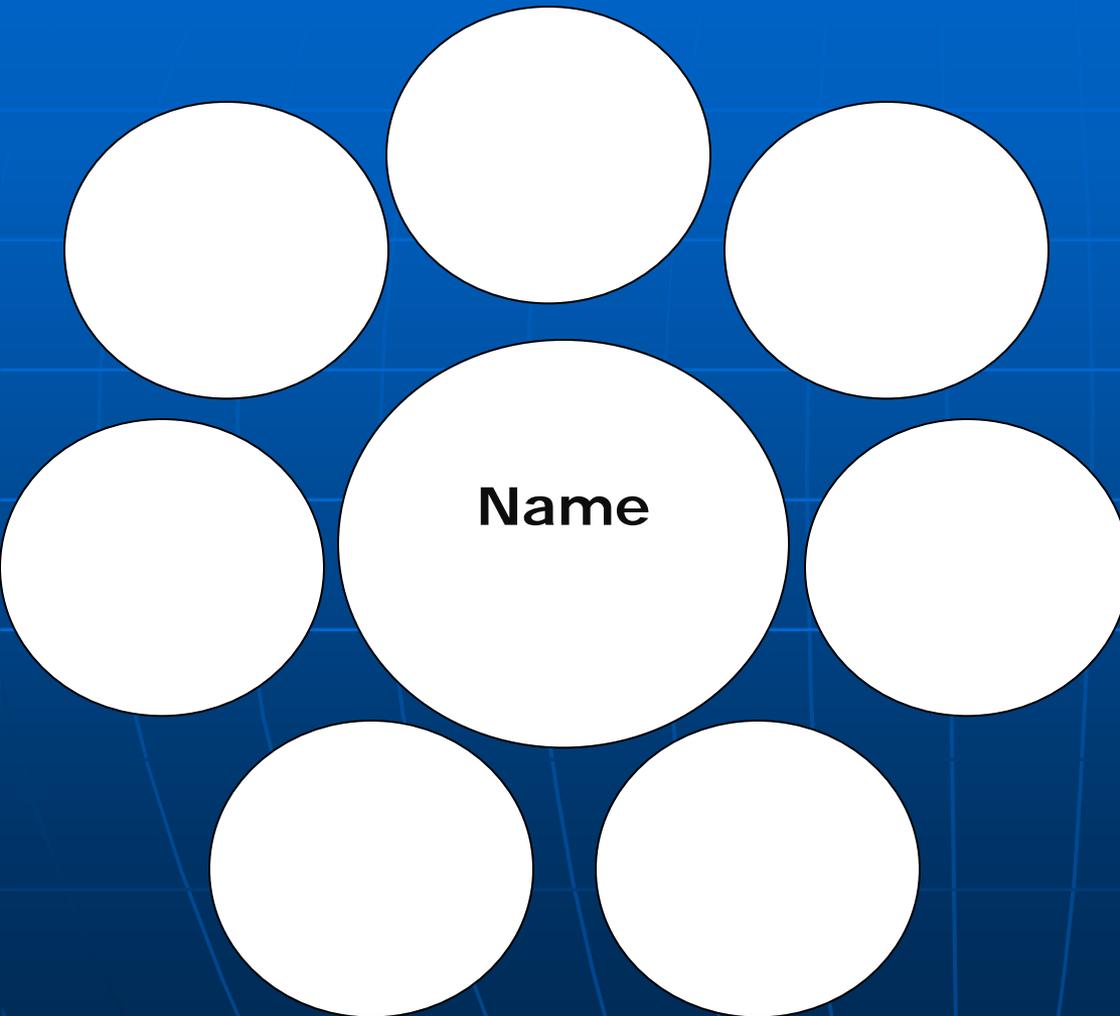
New Jersey Statistics

Children in single parent households	2008	28% (543,000)
Children in the care of grandparents	2008	3% (66,000)
Children living with neither parent	2008	4% (78,000)
Children living in crowded housing	2008	12% (242,000)
Children without a vehicle at home	2008	9% (185,000)
Children without a telephone at home	2007	4% (82,000)
Source: NJ Kids Count 2010 - ACNJ		

Incarceration Data

2.2 million in prison (Total national population)	900,000 Black 440,000 Hispanic	Blacks and Hispanics are disproportionately represented in prisons
	NJ DATA	
African American incarceration rate - NJ (2.3%)	12.4 times the rate of Whites	
Hispanic incarceration rate - NJ (0.7%)	1.8 times the rate of Whites	
White incarceration rate - NJ (0.4%)	Below the national average	
	Statistics reported from: Uneven Justice - State Rates of Incarceration by Race and Ethnicity	

Circles of our Multicultural Selves



Write your name in the center circle. In the smaller circles, describe all the ways in which you identify yourself at this time.

Star the group you most closely identify with at this particular time.

Categories can include:
Gender, Race, Ethnicity,
Skills, Language, Religion,
Nationality, Job/career choice,
Learning style, Energy level,
Age, Interests/Passions, Family
Identification, Astrological
sign, OTHER

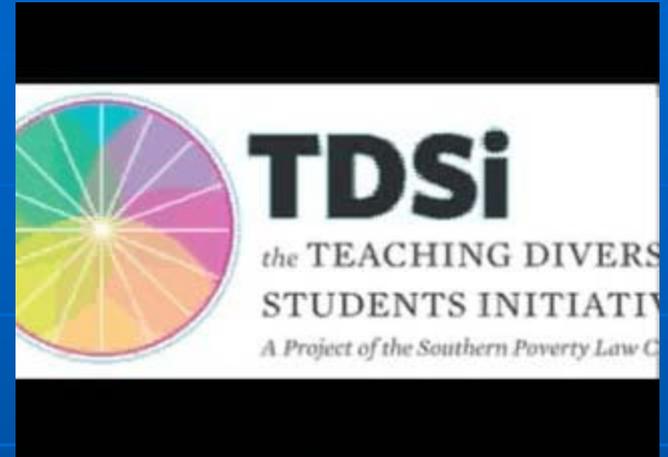
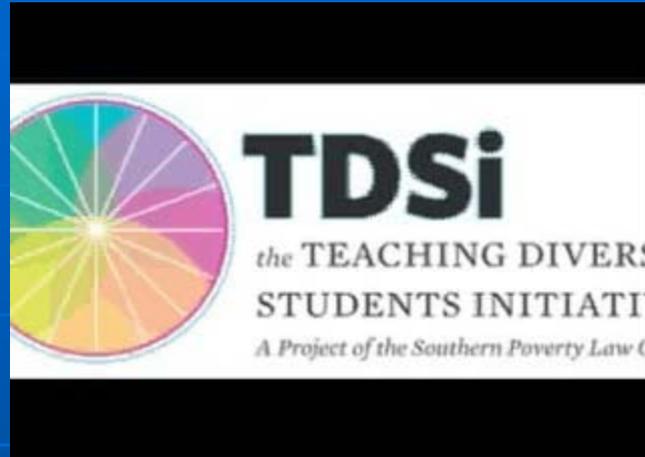


Included vs. Excluded....

Small group discussion:

- Reflecting back upon the information you listed in the circles, think back to a time when you felt successful and included within that category, and describe it to your partner or small group.
- Next, think of a time when you felt excluded or were the outsider within a group and describe it to your partner or small group.
- Reflect on your students, staff & families and their relationship to others within the classroom or school and determine what supports you can provide to ensure that they feel included and valued.

Video Clips

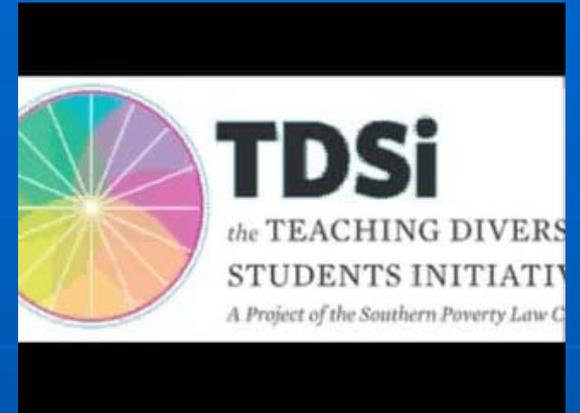
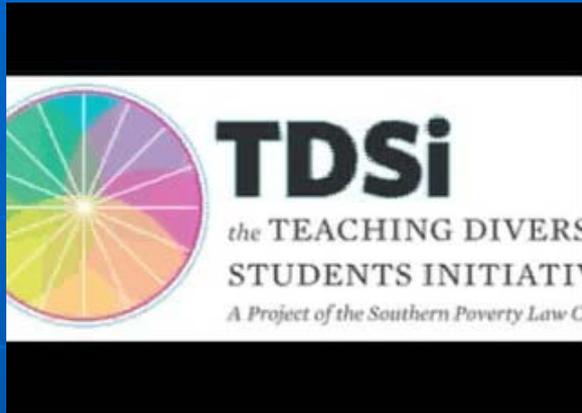


Turn and Talk:

Share an example or experience that depicts how race and/or ethnicity has placed limitations on students.

Share strategies/attempts that have been or can be put in place to address the disparities.

Video Clips



Small Group Discussion

Share some of your early messages about the following groups of people: Native Americans, Chinese, Japanese, Jews, Arabs, Hispanics, Blacks, Whites. Talk about where your messages came from.

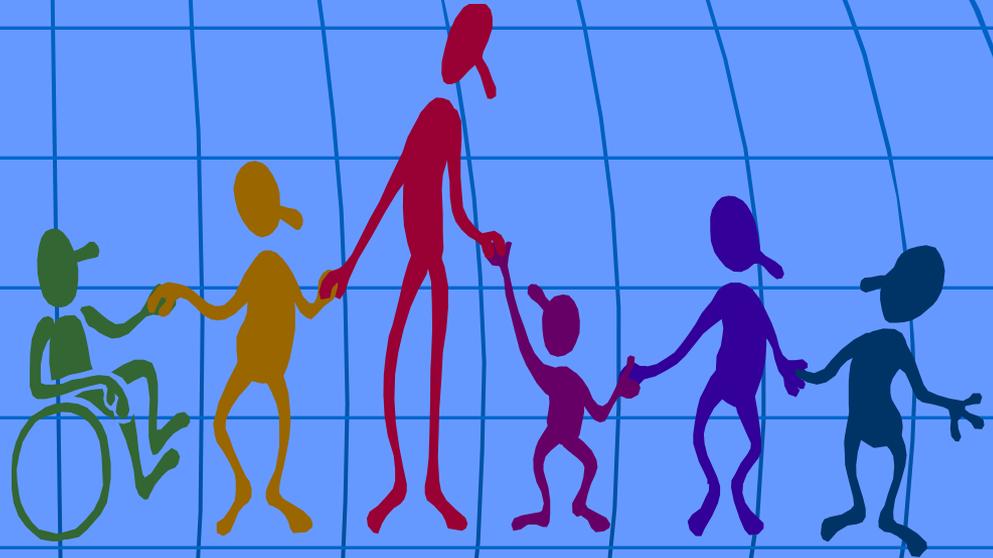
How does your current thinking differ from your earlier messages? Can you recall specific experiences that shaped your thinking?

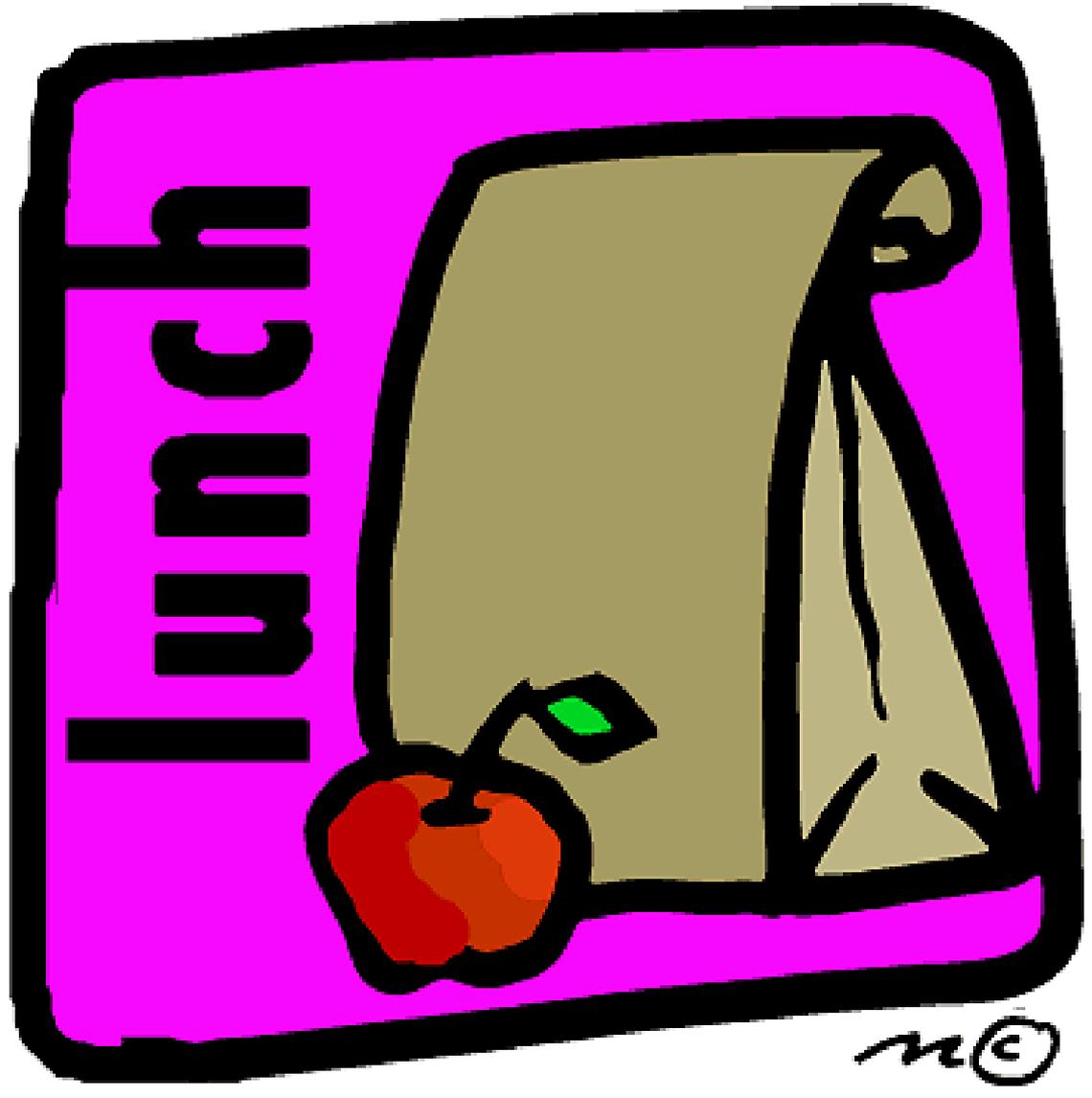
What early messages would you like to set aside that still influence you? What efforts are you making to set those messages aside?

Turn and Talk

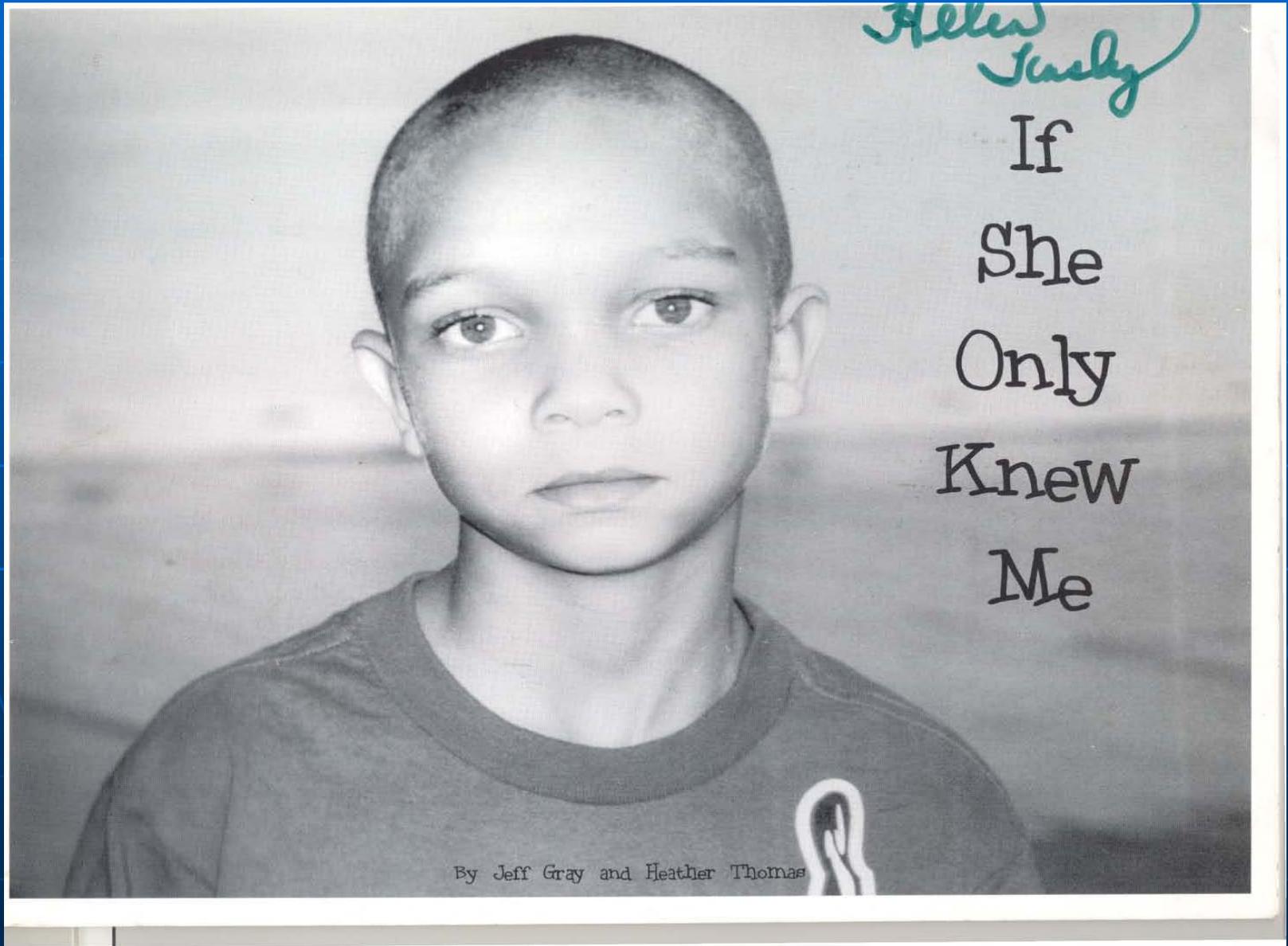
What are some stereotypes you have seen or heard in your classroom and or school?

What activities can be implemented to foster cross-cultural communication and understanding?





Shared Reading Of Book:



Allen
Sushy

If
She
Only
Knew
Me

By Jeff Gray and Heather Thomas

What is Culture?

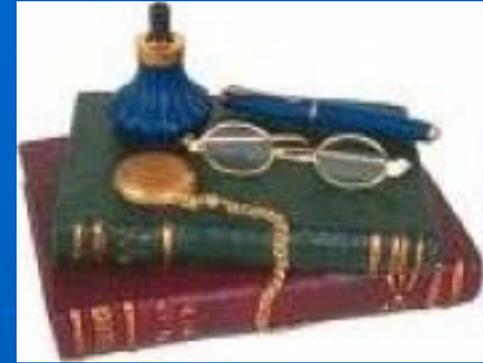


Are race and culture the same?

Is a person's culture fixed or can it change?

Can a person belong to various cultures?

Reading Assignment



1. I don't think I'm biased
by Pat Clark
2. White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack
by Peggy McIntosh
3. Excerpts from: Developing Cross-Cultural Competence -
A Guide for Working with Children and Their Families
by Eleanor W. Lynch & Marci J. Hanson

Group Task:

- Read one article, discuss key findings & reflections.
- Share with the larger group.
- Chart findings of each article.



FILM



LoqueeshaAshleyFranklinJoseBrown

An experimental documentary about
children in Philadelphia
with poetry by Ursula Rucker
Directed by Nadine Patterson

Produced by Harmony Image Productions



Film - LoqueeshaAshleyFranklinJoseBrown



Who is Loqueesha? List aspects about her.

What are Loqueesha's strengths?

Describe her community?

What activities will create personal & cultural connections for Loqueesha?

Resources

Diversity in Education Websites Handout

Articles:

ERIC: Working with Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Families
by Deborah A. Burns & Robert M. Corso

Confronting the Challenge of diversity in Education
By Pedro A. Noguera, PH.D

NJ Dept of ED Preschool Program Guidance on Holiday Activities & Celebrations



Background Readings:

- Anti-Bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves. By Louise Derman-Sparks & Julie Olsen Edwards
- Courageous Conversations About Race - A field guide for achieving equity in schools. By Glenn Eric Singleton & Curtis Linton
- Developing Cross-Cultural Competence - A Guide for Working With Children and Their Families (Excerpts) By Eleanor W. Lynch & Marci J. Hanson
- Getting it Right for Young Children from Diverse Backgrounds. By Linda Espinosa
- How To Teach Students Who Don't Look Like You. By Bonnie M. Davis

• I Don't think I'm Biased by Pat Clark (published in Teaching Tolerance Magazine)

• Motivating Black Males to Succeed By Baruti Kafele

• Other People's Children - Cultural Conflict in the Classroom. By Lisa Delpit

Starting Small. By The Teaching Tolerance Project

The Anti-Racist Cookbook (A Recipe Guide for Conversations About Race That Goes Beyond Covered Dishes and "Kum-Bah-Ya"). By Robin Parker and Pamela Smith Chambers

• White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack. By Peggy McIntosh



“There is no single face in nature, because every eye that looks upon it, sees it from its own angle. So every man's spice-box seasons his own food.”

Zora Neal Hurston

We have the power to begin with our students and families to create a better world.



It is in our hands!

Contact Information

Helen Tinsley, M.Ed
Division of Early Childhood Education

Helen.tinsley@doe.state.nj.us
(609) 943-5397