Dr. Sonia Nieto

on The Village

Culturally Responsive Teaching
Roots of Culturally Responsive Pedagogy [CRP]

Precursor and parallel movements:
- Civil Rights Movement for justice for African Americans (and later, women’s rights, bilingual education, disability rights, etc)
- Intergroup Relations Movement
- Ethnic Studies
- Multicultural Education

Different Iterations of CRP
- Culturally Compatible
- Culturally Congruent
- Culturally Appropriate
- Culturally Responsive
- Culturally Relevant
- Culturally Sustaining Education
Culturally responsive education

What CRP *is not*:

- a specific rigid set of strategies
- a pre-determined curriculum
- a watering down of the curriculum
- a ‘feel-good’ approach for students of color
- only for students of some backgrounds

What CRP *is*:

- a mindset that understands and respects students’ cultures, histories, and experiences
- a way to center these in the curriculum and pedagogy
- a stance and dispositions including:
  - engaging in critical self-reflection
  - valuing language and culture
  - having high expectations
  - honoring families
What do CRP educators need to know?

• **Themselves** and their histories

• **Their students**: who they are, where they come from, their interests, hopes, dreams, talents, strengths, and needs

• **Their students’ communities**: where they come from, who they are, their hopes and dreams for their children
There is no template; there are no “best practices”
Some Basic Concrete Examples

- Learn to say students’ names correctly
- Label room with languages spoken by students
- Have books and other materials that reflect the backgrounds of students in the room, and of people in the world
- Learn as much as you can about your students’ histories, cultures, and realities
- Engage respectfully in authentic family outreach
- Learn about, and become engaged, in the community
- Explore how your curriculum can reflect the realities of all students (all subject areas)
- Learn about the specific students you teach
- Learn another language
Dear Kaeli,

today I found your letter in my message box. I was very interested to hear that you were speaking to your mom about White people leaving Brown and Black people out of books. This is a problem that we need to help each other with…

Love, Ms. Bode
Dear Publisher,
Make your books fair! And if you don’t, me and my family will never buy or read your unfair books. We want fairness. From Erika
Some of my books and research

- **Affirming Diversity**: The Sociopolitical Context of Multicultural Education
  - Allyn & Bacon
  - 2018
  - (1st ed, 1992)

- **Finding Joy in Teaching Students of Diverse Backgrounds**
  - Heinemann
  - 2013

- **Why We Teach**
  - Teachers College Press
  - 2005

- **Why We Teach Now**
  - Teachers College Press
  - 2015
Upcoming Activities and Presentations

NCTE Annual Convention

November 16-19 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Stay tuned for: Sonia Nieto and Alicia López (2018?)

Teaching Across Generations: Sonia and Alicia (placeholder title), Teachers College Press