

10 Ways to Open Up Classrooms to Diversity

1. Have the students introduce themselves by name and ethnicity and to share one thing about themselves that isn't outwardly apparent to others.
2. Have them bring pictures of their family (including themselves) and say something about each picture. Then quiz the class to see how much they remember about what they heard.
3. Have the students have lunch with someone who is different from themselves and who they don't know twice a week. Then write a paper on what it was like and what they learned. Encourage them to ask lots of questions and to listen well.
4. Arrange the seating chart so that different students get to meet each other.
5. Have the students share in their native language "Good morning" and "thank-you". If they don't know, have them do research or look around the school to see who might know. Have the whole class repeat each saying and have an oral quiz with prizes to reward those who remember.
6. Have the students share three things that are special about their culture and why.
7. Have the students share a famous writer, poet, artist, dancer, musician etc. from their culture.
8. Have the students interview their parents/grandparents about what it has been like living and surviving in this culture. Ask the students what was similar and what was different about each story.
9. Ask the students to find out how different ethnic groups are different and similar.
10. Arrange field trips into the different neighborhoods of your students. Ask them to share what is special about their neighborhoods.