

Establishing Authentic Relationships with your Students



NC NTSP 2016 Fall Institute

Establishing Authentic Relationships



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Session Outcomes



Objective: Participants will design and share strategies/activities for building authentic relationships and fostering a positive classroom environment.

NC Prof Teaching Standards:

- **Standard 2:** Teachers establish a respectful environment for a diverse population of students.
- **Standard 4:** Teachers facilitate learning for their students

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Authentic Relationships



- **Focus on Cultural Relevance:**
 - What **ASSETS** do your students bring with them?
 - What is their **POTENTIAL**?
 - How do we get past focusing on students as **CHALLENGES**?
 - Is this just **GOOD** teaching? How might this kind of teaching be different?



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Authentic Relationships



- ***Culture is central to learning.*** It plays a role not only in communicating and receiving information, but also in shaping the thinking process of groups and individuals. A pedagogy that **acknowledges, responds to, and celebrates** fundamental cultures offers full, equitable access to education for students from all cultures.
- [Three Educators discuss Culturally Relevant Teaching.](#)
- **Questions for video:**
 - How do these educators define Culture?
 - How does Culturally Relevant Teaching help build authentic relationships?

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Building Authentic Relationships



1. Research students' experiences with learning and teaching styles

- **Ask educators** who come from the same cultural background as the students about effective ways to teach
- **Visit the communities** of the students to find out how they interact and learn in that environment
- **Ask students** about their learning style preferences
- **Interview/survey parents** about how and what students learn from them

2. Devise different ways for students to be successful in achieving developmental milestones

- Ensure success by setting realistic, yet rigorous, goals for individual students
- Allow students to set their own goals for a project
- Allow the use of the student's first language to enhance learning

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Building Authentic Relationships (cont.)



3. Create an environment that encourages and embraces culture

- Employ patterns of management familiar to students
- Allow students ample opportunities to share their cultural knowledge
- Question and challenge students on their beliefs and actions
- Teach students to question and challenge their own beliefs and actions



Building Authentic Relationships (cont.)



What might this look like in your classroom?



Dance break



Electrons in Motion



Pillow Quilting

Strategy 1: Community Connections



Strategy #1: Community Connections

- Create personal shape
- Post
- Make meaningful connections



Discussion

Why do we do this? Who else could we add?
How could we make curricular connections?

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Strategy 2: What's in Your Pocket?



1. Search your pockets, purses, bags, computers, for physical or digital artifacts that have personal meaning for you.

• **Personal meaning** may refer to those things you associate with family, friends, special events, or any combination of those.

2. Once you have located the object, create a short poem, song, narrative, drawing, skit, etc. that explores its meaningfulness.

3. When done, be prepared to share out.

4. 15 minutes.



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Using Popular Culture Texts



How one teacher connects with students who love comic books:

“I try to simplify the art of fiction by using comic books. Basically I point out that the speech bubbles are dialogue (character needs a name tag), the rectangular box usually at the bottom of each panel is the narration, and the illustrations are the descriptions. A friend of mine took this a little further by using Fluffy, the three-headed dog from Harry Potter, as a reminder for her students. Each head was designated a D, D, or N. if you had too much or too little of a certain element, the heads would rise and fall accordingly.”

From *Five Ideas for Using Pop Culture to Inspire Elementary Students* found at: <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/pop-culture-inspire-elementary-students>

Let's try it out:

<http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/comic/>

For more advanced tools see:

<http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/Comix/>

<http://www.powtoon.com/>

<http://www.toondoo.com/>

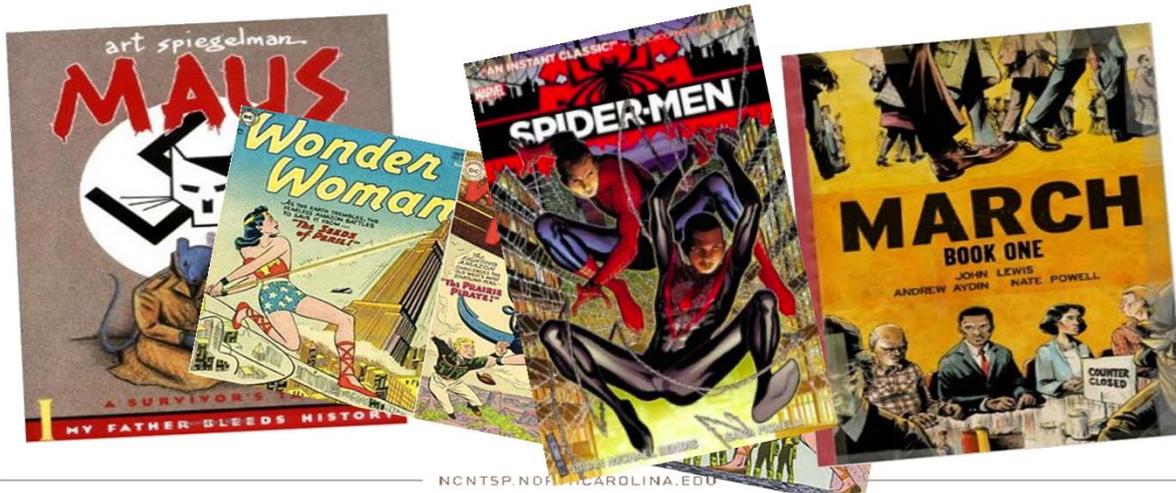


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Using Popular Culture Texts



How might comic books/graphic novels be Culturally Relevant?



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Small Group Brainstorm



Stand Up, Hand Up, Pair Up

Discuss strategies/activities you have used in your classrooms that helped build authentic relationships.

Each group will share out when done.



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Activity/Strategy Design



Your Turn:

- With the remaining time, work independently or with others to develop an activity that helps you build authentic relationships in your classroom.
- Use the small group discussion and share out to help you get started.



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Session Reflection



When you return to your school, what is one thing about building authentic relationships in your classroom you might share with a colleague?

With the time remaining, we'll share these reflections.

