



This is a graded discussion: 100 points possible

due May 1

Response to Chapter 8 by Pamela Stephens

2 3

Read The Story of Doris: Cultural Sensitivity in Action and respond to Questions 1 and 2.



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[Priscilla Griggs \(https://converse.instructure.com/courses/4158/users/919\)](https://converse.instructure.com/courses/4158/users/919)



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In chapter 8 The Story of Doris: Cultural Sensitivity in Action by Pamela Stephen, the author explores the importance of cultural sensitivity in the classroom. It is very important to be aware of your students cultural background. This provides a jumping off point to assist the teacher in creating culturally appropriate lessons. As a kindergarten teacher, I have to know a great deal about my students cultural background. At the beginning of the year, I have the parents and students collaborate on an all about me poster. The goal of the poster is to give me a glimpse into the children's family dynamic. I learn so much about my families. I like this project because I believe that as a teacher, I must know my families to better service the child's family values. The last thing I want to do is inaccurately represent a student's cultural beliefs. This is the most important component of an un-spoken contract between teacher's and the families they serve.

Second tool I use in creating culturally appropriate lessons for my students is assessments. I use the pre-assessments to determine where we should start as a class. As a teacher I know and understand that there are many forms of intelligence and multiple tools must be used to assess the child's level of understanding. It is my job to find the balance of teaching the children on their level vs. pushing them mentally to expand their scope of the world. It would be unfair of me to teach the children solely based on my level. If I do that, the initial goal of creating connections between my students and the different cultures around them will fail.

[← Reply](#)[https://](https://converse.instructure.com/courses/4158/users/1478)[Ariana Jones \(https://converse.instructure.com/courses/4158/users/1478\)](https://converse.instructure.com/courses/4158/users/1478)

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Chapter 8 shows us how cultural sensitivity is so important in the lives of our young people. Doris's ability to show her classmates different ways of looking at culture through her Artist project was done in a wonderful way. Showing how we misunderstand other cultures by looking at them through our own cultural lens can really open the eyes of others. We need to be aware of these things when interacting with and teaching children in our classrooms. We all have so many preconceived ideas of what each culture is about, and many times our perceptions are incorrect. Doris' project was a great way to show how we do this without even realizing that we are doing it.

I think the very first project we did in this class was a great way for us to get to know and understand more about each other, and so much about our background. It also was helpful because it gave us an opportunity to search for ourselves and then gave us a platform to explain who we feel we are, and how we became that person. So I think that this would be a wonderful way for students of any age to share who they are in the classroom. Knowing more about the cultural backgrounds of your students can help when designing a curriculum because it allows you to help share all the differences that are represented in your classroom. We are seeing more and more that if students feel they are seen, represented, and understood they will learn better. They will be more excited to learn about other cultures as well. So allowing them to share their culture with their peers, not only helps them want to learn more but it gives the other students the tools they will need to be culturally sensitive in their interactions with others in the future as well.

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Chapter 8 focuses on cultural sensitivity. This is very important especially for teachers and students. Teachers need to be aware and understanding of their students and their cultural backgrounds. This is so that the teacher does not misinform other students about their culture and/or discriminate against them. I remember when I was in 9th grade we were learning about religion and the different denominations of Christianity was being brought up and when the

teacher got to my denomination (Pentecostal) she explained almost everything about what we believe in wrong. it was very disheartening to see how uneducated she was and how she was educating my peers wrong. But, back then I never had the courage to correct her. I just let her misspeak about my religion and feel sad about it. I do not ever want to make another child feel like that.

Treating every student with respect and understanding is so important. Their well being is top priority. Each student should feel supported by their teacher. This is why it is so important for the teacher to be well knowledgeable about a culture before they even think to speak about it.

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