

1. “Everyone is an educator”

I think this statement implies that everyone has something to offer. Of course, this goes hand in hand with the second part to this concept below. It implies that students have things about them that teachers can learn from. I think this concept is at the core of diversity and inclusion. If students and teachers are both educators, we can learn from each other about our diverse and unique background and experiences. It is a two-way street.

2. “Everyone is also a student”

When I read this statement, I think about how we all go through life learning new things. Teachers and students are constantly learning. Education never stops and we should be mindful of this. The desire to learn (be a student) is part of life’s yearning for itself. I agree that teachers need to learn about their students. Therefore, teachers not only learn from their students but need to learn about them. As the speaker noted, teachers need to continuously keep up with the increasingly changing dynamic of their students. They need to continuously learn, adapt, and innovate.

3. After reviewing the Prezi, what does Culturally Responsive Teaching mean to you?

I think the 7 principles for culturally responsive teaching speak directly to the message by the speaker in the TED talk and the need for us to be culturally proficient. Reading the principles also reminded me of some of the concepts and strategies I learned in the Methodology class last quarter. As we learn about the cultural backgrounds of our students, we should, for example, decide or at least be mindful of how corrections should be managed, how silence is valued, etc. Should we use more visuals? This is how we create a culturally inviting learning environment. Should we incorporate culturally familiar names or examples when teaching? As instructors, knowledge of cultural influences can be used to our advantage (accommodating our instruction to their cultures) and maximize learning. Being culturally responsive correlates with being responsible teachers.

4. After assessing yourself on the Cultural Proficiency Continuum, where do you honestly believe you currently fall?

I certainly hope I am not culturally destructive, blind, incapacitated, or incompetent. I think the definition of pre-competence could use some clarification. My hope is that I am somewhere between culturally competent and proficient. How is our level of competence impacted by being a minority in a mainstream culture? Unless we choose not to acculturate, don’t we embody elements of cultural proficiency by definition? At the very least, I respect diversity and different cultures. I actually find other ways of life interesting. I make an effort to interact effectively with others and believe that we as humans share the same basic needs and wants in life regardless of culture differences.