

Quick Consolidation: Engage Voice and Vision

The tools you can use to introduce the relevance of cultural responsiveness, student voice, and student vision into your class connect and draw students into the classroom experience. Students need to feel that their own culture is more than OK. They must feel it is valid and acceptable to talk about at school. They want to know if the school and staff care enough about them to give them a voice and help foster their vision. This empowerment is critical to the formation of a rich classroom climate. Students need teachers that will invest in them socially, emotionally, and cognitively. Without your investment, students feel like they can't invest in school. Don't wait for them. You have to go first. With this firmly in mind, answer the following reflection questions on how you can build positive attitudes in your students.

1. What do you know or understand about the importance of establishing relevancy and student voice and vision in your classroom?
2. What are some ways you can answer for students the question, "What's in this for me?" and then help them connect more fully with the content you teach?
3. What are some examples of affirming responses you can offer students when they talk to you about their opinions, interests, or life experiences?
4. How can you help students to better articulate their vision of what they want from their futures?
5. If students convey doubt about expressing or developing their voice or vision, how will you encourage them to think big and believe in themselves?