

## Suggestions for Teaching in Racially Diverse Classrooms

Source: Bok, D. (2006). *Teaching in racially diverse college classrooms*. Retrieved June 5, 2008, from <http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/html/icb.topic58474/TFTrace.html>.

- Educate yourself – become sensitive and aware of racial, ethnic, and cultural groups other than your own.
- First and foremost, treat each student as an individual. Be cautious of assumptions about an individual, based on the racial, ethnic, or cultural groups to which he or she appears to belong.
- Get to know each student individually.)
- Learn every student's name and the name he/she prefers to be called and use those names.
- Ask about your students' interests and experiences so that you can know them as individuals, rather than merely members of the group.
- Ask about your students' interests and experiences early on in the course.
- Encourage students to respond to each others' questions and comments, not just your own, to foster a sense of community.
- Don't make assumptions about students based on what you perceive as their minority experiences and needs.
- Try to anticipate issues of sexuality, religion, or other values for students as you give assignments and lead discussions.
- Provide guidelines for group discussions to create an environment where students will feel safe in voicing their opinions.
- Don't ignore or single out students, and never ask a student to act as a spokesperson for his/her group.
- Combine volunteering and calling on students by beginning a discussion topic and asking for volunteers. Then call on other students to support, add to, or modify that student's comments.
- Monitor students' comments to avoid any personal attacks.
- Introduce controversial topics in impersonal ways.
- Give students explicit information about how you will grade their work.