

10 Ways to Begin a Diversity Conversation in the Classroom

1. Have students introduce themselves by name and ethnicity and share one thing about themselves that isn't outwardly apparent to others.
2. Have students bring pictures of their family (including themselves) and say something about each picture. Then have the group share one thing that they remember about what they heard.
3. Have everyone have lunch with someone who is different from themselves and who they don't know at least once a week. Then have each pair share what it was like for them and what they learned. Encourage the group to ask the pair questions.
4. Have students sit with someone new, so that different folks get to meet each other and break up old alliances.
5. Have students share in their native language how to say, "Good morning" and "Thank-you". If they don't know, have them do some research or look around to find someone who might know. Have the group repeat each saying and have an oral quiz with prizes to reward those who remember.
6. Have students share three things that are special about their culture and why.
7. Have each student share a famous writer, poet, artist, dancer, musician etc. from their culture and what this person means to them.
8. Have each student interview their parents/grandparents about what it has been like living and surviving in this culture. Ask the group to share what was similar and what was different about each story.
9. Ask the class to share the many ways ethnic groups are different and similar.
10. Ask students to share what is special about their neighborhoods.