

# StirFry Seminars & Consulting

innovative tools for diversity training

## 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. Request that 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 about 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.

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## 9 Ways to Begin A Diversity Conversation with Teachers & Staff

1. Have everyone share their ethnicity, when they first discovered they were different and how it affected them then and now.
2. Have each teacher and staff member share their ethnicity and one thing that is special about their culture and why.
3. Have everyone share what their definition of diversity is, how they actualize that in their classrooms/work settings, in specific and tangible everyday practices in their relationships with the students, and how they integrate diversity into teaching practices and curriculum.
4. Have each teacher/staff share what is good and what is hard in talking about race/racism with their students and peers.
5. Have each teacher/staff share their experiences and what they notice about how racism plays itself out in their school site amongst students/staff/teachers.
6. Have each teacher/staff share how racism has affected their lives and what it has taken for them to get to this room.
7. Have each teacher/staff share how race/racism affects a student's attitude, self-esteem, behavior, and classroom performance.
8. Have each teacher/staff share what they think are effective ways to talk about racism, to deal with the issues of racism and to unlearn it. Also, have them mention what kinds of trainings they would need to sharpen their skills and knowledge.
9. Fill each classroom and hallway with quotes/pictures from all cultures and discuss what they mean with students, teachers, and staff.

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