

Intercultural Classroom Strategies

Created by Vanessa Lanning, Dr. Martina Schiavo, and Dr. Susan Luo

Value students' cultures: find ways for students to share their unique perspectives. Be eager to learn about where they come from.

Intentionally learn names: names are deeply personal, and showing an effort to learn how to say them and use them matters to students.

Find ways to make your content global: this opens up deeper conversations for all students.

Be explicit about your classroom culture: how do you want students to engage in class? Why is that important? Remember that some students come from cultures where they are expected to remain silent and not interact with the faculty member.

Reconsider metaphors and cultural references: this can make learning inaccessible if a student is not aware of the culture behind the reference or metaphor. If the metaphor or reference is important, find ways to share the background and explanation with the students.

Revisit rubrics: make sure they emphasize the value of content, unique ideas, and critical contributions over accent and non-native language structures or grammatical errors. Feedback should focus on style and content.

Consider the historical context of the lesson: are there assumptions that are made about the background knowledge a student has for the lesson. If so, it may be a good idea to make sure students at least have access to material that can enlighten them on that history.

Question assumptions about technology: not every student has access to regular technology, and even if they do, our academic systems may be new to them. We have heard a lot of international students mention that they are unfamiliar with Canvas and sometimes miss the first few assignments because they did not know how to find them in



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Rinker Center for Global Affairs

the online space. Consider showing students for the first couple of weeks exactly where an assignment is and how they can submit it using the student view of your Canvas space.



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Rinker Center for Global Affairs