

Bringing Culturally Responsive Practice to the Math Classroom

“The most important aspect of being a culturally responsive educator is building relationships with culturally and linguistically diverse students.”



[Twelve Ways to Make Math More Culturally Responsive](#)

In the article, *Twelve Ways to Make Math More Culturally Responsive: Part 1*, the authors discuss simple ways any math educator can create a math experience that is comparative and applicable in all of their students' lives. When students are provided mathematics problems that relate to the world around them they are able to form deeper connections with the material. The first step the authors suggest is to build a community within your classroom. This can be done by building relationships with all students and understanding the cultures

they stem from. Once the educator has a foundational understanding of the diverse groups in the classroom they can start to form real-world connections with the content they are teaching. This can be as simple as altering word problems to include components of the students everyday life. For example, if a majority of the students are living in an urban setting the teacher can create word problems that deal with calculating bus fare for traveling around the city. The third way for educators to make their math classroom more culturally responsive is to have students collaborate with each other. This will help build upon the community created within the classroom and allow students to interact with diverse groups of people.

I feel that this article is relevant to what I do on a daily basis because I teach math and I am always looking for ways to allow my students to see themselves represented in the mathematics we are learning. Reading this article allowed me to remember that I have the power to alter word problems to include parts of my students' lives. This will allow me to show students that I actually do care about their diverse backgrounds and where they come from, which is especially important in a virtual classroom where my students come from all over Pennsylvania. I will take the information in the article and incorporate it into my classroom. I will start this school year by changing my word problems and for next school year I will work on building that sense of community from the start! I will take this information to create a more culturally responsive classroom!

