

# Cultural Awareness in Tutoring



NATIONAL STUDENT  
SUPPORT ACCELERATOR

*equalizing access to quality tutoring*

# What to Consider

- Introducing cultural relevance
- Culturally relevant and inclusive tutoring
- Pre-service training guidance
- Relationship-building activities



# Introducing Cultural Awareness: Relevance & Inclusivity

- Why make learning culturally **relevant**?
- Why make learning culturally **inclusive**?



# Introducing Cultural Awareness: Relevance & Inclusivity, *cont.*

## Why make learning culturally **relevant**?

- Connections that students make between their lived and learned experiences can enrich their education



# Introducing Cultural Awareness: Relevance & Inclusivity, *cont.*

## Why make learning culturally **inclusive**?

- Environments that are not culturally inclusive can devalue students' backgrounds, and can negatively affect students' educational experiences as a whole.



# Culturally Relevant and Inclusive Tutoring

- When considering the factors that help to create a culturally **relevant** and **inclusive** tutoring session, implement the following strategies:
  - Get to know each student individually on a **personal** level
  - Foster a **supportive** tutoring session environment
  - Cultivate your own **understanding** of cultural relevance
  - **Adapt** your curriculum appropriately



# Culturally Relevant and Inclusive Tutoring, *cont.*

**Get to know students** on a personal level through doing things like:

- Ensuring that you are pronouncing their names correctly
- Encouraging students to share about their cultures, neighborhoods, and other aspects of their lives
- Sharing about your own experiences and background in order to build a relationship based on trust and openness



# Culturally Relevant and Inclusive Tutoring, *cont.*

Foster a **supportive** environment for students by:

- Attributing specific affirmations to each individual student
- Include diverse ethnicities, identities, abilities, languages, abilities, socioeconomic experiences in session curriculum
- Eliminate materials that reinforce stereotypes/ insulting depictions of diverse communities

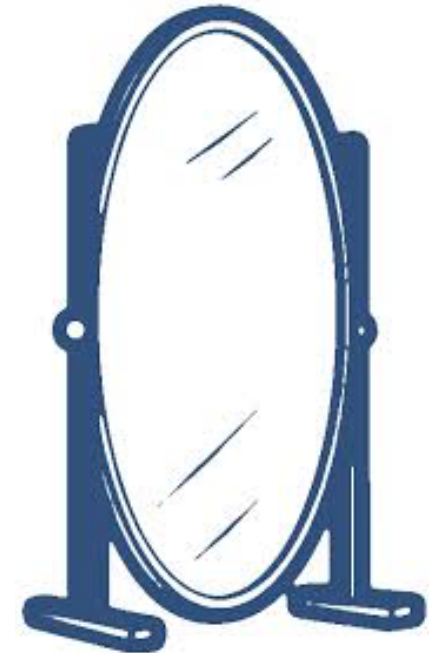




# Culturally Relevant and Inclusive Tutoring, *cont.*

Actively make an effort to **understand cultural relevance** and your own views about it:

- Share your own experiences, culture, and influences to normalize sharing about these aspects of our lives
- Reflect on your own perspectives on family, community, and culture
- Interrogate and actively correct your assumptions/ biases about people of different backgrounds than you



# Culturally Relevant and Inclusive Tutoring, *cont.*

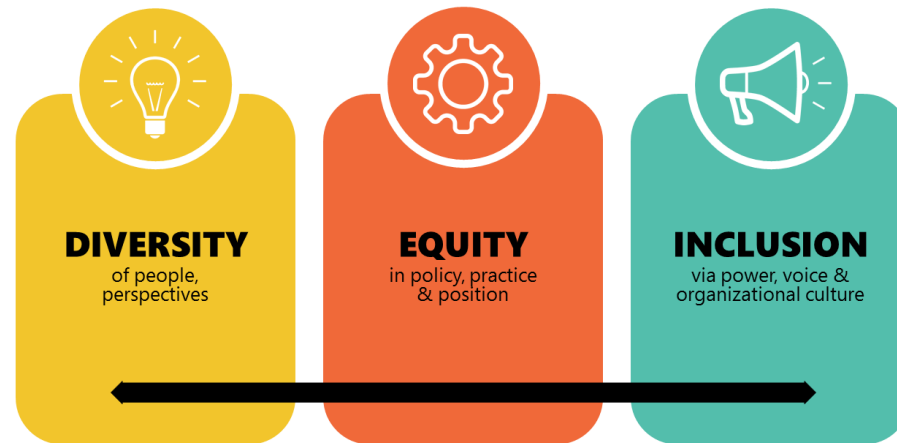
Lastly, **adapt** your curriculum in the following ways:

- Have a growth mindset about both your and your students' mistakes
- Look for opportunities to include relevant cultural references into your curriculum
- Hold high expectations for your students and look for ways to make your curriculum more rigorous



# Pre-Service Training Guidance

- Prioritize the promotion of **diversity, equity, and inclusion** within your program culture during the pre-service training process.
- Organically **incorporate** these topics into training, and take time to **question systems of oppression** that can hinder diversity, equity, and inclusion.



# Pre-Service Training Guidance, *cont.*

Incorporate specific sessions that tackle these areas:

- Setting a **foundation**
- Building **self-awareness**
- Exploring **privilege**
- Building local **understanding**
- Generating awareness of **systemic racism**



# Pre-Service Training Guidance, *cont.*

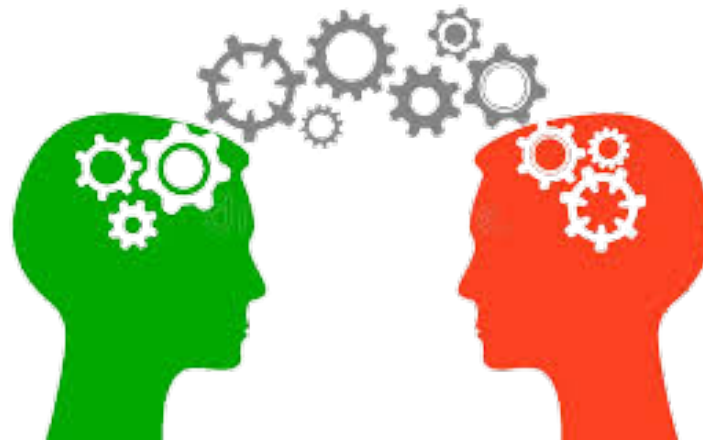
- Provide opportunities for tutors to increase their awareness of these areas **during training**, and to **reflect** on their own identities as facilitators of learning.
- This type of discussion can help tutors to uncover what **biases** they potentially hold about education, and to understand how to actionably fix those biases.



# Relationship-Building Activities

Relationship-building activities can help tutors gain a better **understanding** of their students' backgrounds and experiences.

They can also help to foster relationships that value **trust** and **openness**, which can help students to feel confident when working with their tutor.



# Relationship-Building Activities, *cont.*

- Ask your students **questions** that pertain to their:
  - Languages
  - Hobbies
  - Responsibilities
  - Activities with family
  - Musical artists



# The Result

Cultural awareness is a crucial aspect of tutor-student relationships, and can make all the difference in your students' learning experiences.







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**For more information, access the complete  
collection of National Student Support  
Accelerator tutoring tools at:**

**<https://studentsupportaccelerator.org/tutoring/tool-appendix>**

# Slide-Specific Links

## Slides 3 and 4:

- *Culturally Relevant and Inclusive Tutoring*

<https://studentsupportaccelerator.org/tutoring/instruction/relationship-building#tools>

## Slide 5:

- *Pre-Service Training Guidance* <https://studentsupportaccelerator.org/tutoring/tutors/training-support#tools>

## Slide 6:

- *Relationship-Building Activities*

<https://studentsupportaccelerator.org/tutoring/instruction/relationship-building#tools>