

Closing the Achievement Gaps

Resources

National Education Association (<http://www.nea.org>)

- C.A.R.E.: Strategies for Closing the Achievement Gaps (<http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/CAREguide2011.pdf>)

(all links will open in a new browser window)

Procedure

1. Link to **C.A.R.E.: Strategies for Closing the Achievement Gaps** (www.nea.org/assets/docs/CAREguide2011.pdf). This is research-based and was developed through the collaborative efforts of teachers, education support professionals, researchers, community advocates, parents and practioners.

Find the title, "Culture, Language and Economic Differences." Read Chapter 2 to help you refine your definition of culture as it applies to the classroom.

2. Using the information studied in Chapter 2, select an activity for use in your classroom. Include the idea in an LPA-generated lesson plan. Identify the characteristics you are highlighting (values, culture, beliefs, skills, etc.). Submit your lesson plan. Either teach it during a visit from your faculty or videotape it and post the video in your Work Folio.
3. Additional options for making connections with children in the classroom: select two and post your products in your work folio.



- Draw the names of two students at random. Create a Venn Diagram to illustrate what is unique to each child and what is the same. Record your responses in your diagram. If you would rather illustrate the comparison on a chart, make three columns. Label the outside two with the student names and the word Unique. Label the center column Similarities. Make sure to note at least five details in each area.
- Create a class bulletin board which represents all of the cultures of the students. Post a picture and several descriptions of the activity as told through student voices.
- Have students create an artifact highlighting their backgrounds. Share their products with the group. Make a video of students sharing with the class and post in your discussion forum.
- Make a 3-minute Public Service Announcement (PSA) about your school site and how it welcomes diversity. The commercial should reflect student, faculty and community. Post to your discussion forum.



Submit for Activity 11.04

- Lesson plan (to be observed by faculty or video recorded)
- If you have self-selected from the first two options in step 3, attach your file(s) here
- If you have self-selected from the last two options in step 3, attach your discussion post(s) here