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Multicultural Education: Life Styles or Chances?

[Angela Rhone, Florida Atlantic University](#)

Abstract

During the first class meeting of the multicultural education course I teach, I ask my second-year teacher education students to define the term multicultural education. I am usually surprised by their responses.

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Define multiculturalism. Multicultural education is a progressive approach for transforming education based on educational equality and social justice. The components required in educating a multicultural education are content integrations, prejudice reduction, empowering school culture and social culture. These all relate and all require attention as they relate to the efforts of conflict resolution in today's world. Observe your students closely, and value your real-life experience of diversity over the textbook version. David Kolb created a four-step model for really understanding the needs of a particular student group. He starts with concrete experience, adds reflective observation and then moves to abstract conceptualization and active experimentation.