

# Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

## Pre-Service Teachers Immersion Experience to Learn About Diversity

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### Purpose

The purpose of this activity was to provide an immersion-based lesson where teacher candidates experience from their perspective, what it is to be part of a diverse classroom. During the lesson, teacher candidates experienced being taught an agricultural lesson in a language other than English (none of the students spoke a language other than English as their first language). After the immersion experience, faculty taught instructional strategies to address the learning needs of diverse student populations.

### Results

Implementing lessons like these has resulted in the teacher candidates contributing to their student's academic success, valuing diversity, and implementing the practices learned even with non-diverse student populations.



### How it Works

The lesson is divided into two sections:

#### First section:

- Offered in a language unknown to teacher candidates. We used Spanish for this lesson.
- Basic agricultural science topics that all students presumably already know (e.g., the parts of plants and their functions) are discussed.
- Students are asked to make an effort to participate in the class even if language is a barrier.
- At the end, questions are answered in Spanish.

#### Second section:

- After experiencing being taught in a language they do not speak, they learn about teaching techniques that are effective in teaching diverse populations
- These techniques are:
  - Language content integration
  - Cooperative learning
  - Scaffolding
  - Audiovisual tools



### Advice for Others

We encourage other teacher preparation programs to integrate similar lessons so teacher candidates can start developing their sociolinguistic consciousness and implement appropriate instructional practices with diverse students.

### Cost/ Resources

There are no monetary costs to implementing this lesson.  
The support of a bilingual/multilingual instructor to assist in developing and teaching the lesson is recommended.

