

IDEA 58 Cultural competency is not enough: Advancing culturally relevant teaching as politically relevant teaching

Cultural awareness is not enough: Cultural competency is based on a system of behaviors, attitudes and policies helping teachers work effectively in diverse, multi-cultural environments. Unfortunately, cultural competency is important yet an insufficient precondition for teaching students from marginalized groups. The concept limits orientation to understanding and appreciating culture--ignoring the political and existential realities their students face daily.

When urban teachers use their knowledge of society's inequities, they recognize the political dimensions of culturally relevant teaching. This broadens its applications, expanding their influence to empower students to organize to eliminate the issues of race, class and injustice which can interfere with their academic success at school.

<http://kinumedia.org/vorcreatex2/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Cultural-competency-is-not-enough-Advancing-to-politically-relevant-teaching.pdf>