



Strategy Tool: Cultural Relevance in Content
Relevance Matrix for Examining the Curriculum

Lesson Title/Topic or Unit: _____

Curriculum Levels	Self-Check	Y/N	Evidence (if yes) or Steps to Implement (if No)
Formal (Gay, 2002) {Standards, textbooks, curriculum guides, lessons, assessments}	Multi-cultural portrayals are frequent, accurate, complex, and prominent in the formal curriculum and instructional materials and portrayals are authentic.	Yes No	
	There are frequent opportunities to engage students in divergent thinking within lesson.	Yes No	
	Students have the opportunity to analyze curriculum materials to determine accuracy and frequency of cultural representations.	Yes No	
	I use culturally relevant examples within my lessons (e.g., samples of ethnic literature, ethnically diverse recipes in a math lesson).	Yes No	
	Age-appropriate connection: Students can relate to the content in a way that makes sense to their generation/age group.	Yes No	
	Specific engagement strategy: The strategies I have included in my lesson/unit actively engage ALL students.	Yes No	
Symbolic (Gay, 1995) {Bulletin boards, posters, symbols, holidays, celebrations}	The images around the room represent a wide variety of ages, genders, time, place, social classes, and ethnic and racial diversity.	Yes No	
	I have provided a space in the room for student work to be honored and displayed in a timely manner.	Yes No	



Curriculum Levels	Self-Check	Y/N	Evidence (if yes) or Steps to Implement (if No)
	I have provided space in the room to share things about my own life (e.g., pictures of family members or pets, school diploma, images of some of my favorite things).	Yes No	
Societal (Cortés, 1991, 1995, 2000) {Media images and portrayals}	Students are engaged in thorough and critical analyses and discussions of how cultural groups are portrayed in mass media and popular culture and the effects this may have on different cultural groups. <i>(Consider comfort level in being able to facilitate these types of conversations.)</i>	Yes No	
	Real-life application of content: This lesson/unit relates to the lives of my students.	Yes No	
	Current news or media connection: I have connected current events to the lesson/unit content.	Yes No	