CLASSROOM STORYTELLING MANIFESTO

WORDS MATTER

Challenge stereotypes and the problematic language they are presented through. We tend to internalize the information that we consume, something which leads to ignorance and impacts identity formation.

I DON’T KNOW WHAT I DON’T KNOW

Engage your students by getting to know them. Understand them, listen to their stories while being aware of your biases. Our views influence how we approach each other and issues! Strengthen their curiosity by reaffirming that they can learn through open conversation.

LISTEN

Pay attention when someone is sharing their story. Show compassion while not shifting the focus away from others’ stories. Ask questions to understand better.

BUILD CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

Embrace a multitude of migration stories! Keep your mind open. Students may face many cultural challenges — this is especially common across students who are either new to a receiving community or have foreign-born parents who often rely on them to navigate the struggles of integration.

EMPOWER, DON'T EXPLOIT

Create opportunities for students to share their stories with each other and you, in the framing that they understand.

Make the effort to be informed about developments in policy, so that you are aware of how those might affect your students and their families. That said, people and stories always come first.

Be mindful with students who you know are undocumented or part of mixed-status families — don’t make assumptions about what they will want to or not want to share.

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