



Tabitha Kidwell

American English Webinar 1.6

MAKE IT MEANINGFUL: BRINGING LEARNING TO LIFE WITH CULTURALLY RELEVANT TEACHING

Webinar Goals

- To explain what culturally relevant teaching is and where the idea comes from
- To discuss the advantages of four aspects of culturally relevant teaching:
 - relationships
 - materials
 - language
 - activities
- To share practical teaching ideas related to those four aspects.

Background: Culturally Relevant Teaching



Gloria Ladson-Billings
Photo: University of
Wisconsin



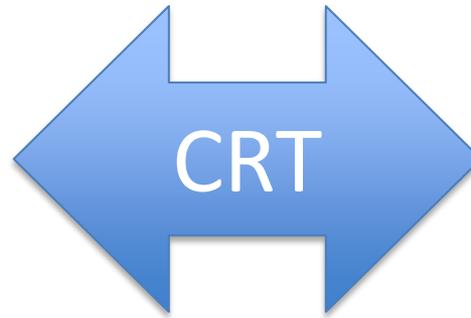
Geneva Gay
Photo: University of
Wisconsin



Lisa Delpit
Photo: Georgia
State University



Most U.S. Students



Most U.S. Teachers

CRT in the Global Context

- Students and teachers may differ in:
 - Origin
 - Social Class
 - Religion
 - Generation
 - Interests
 - Language
 - Values

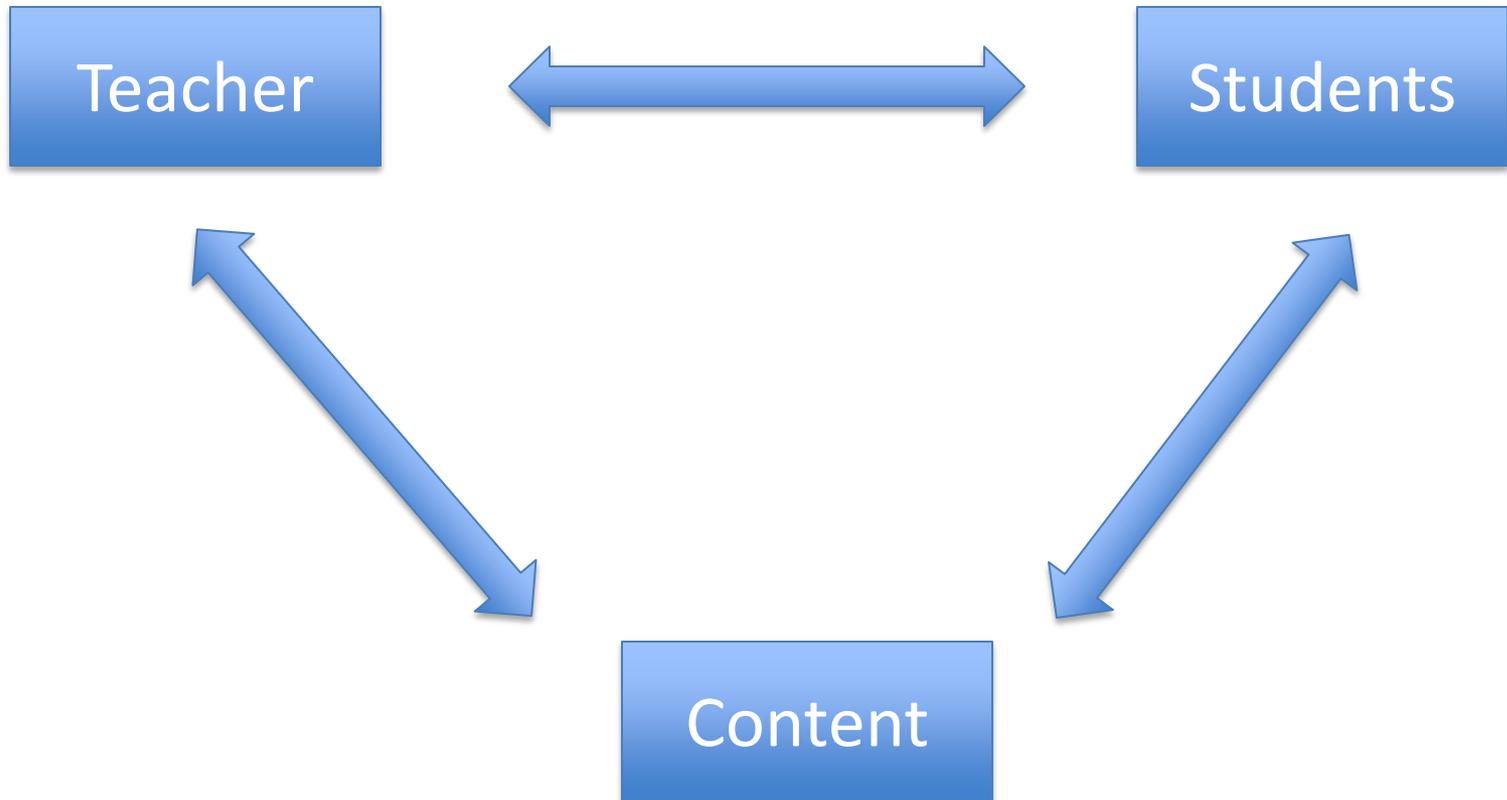


Target Culture

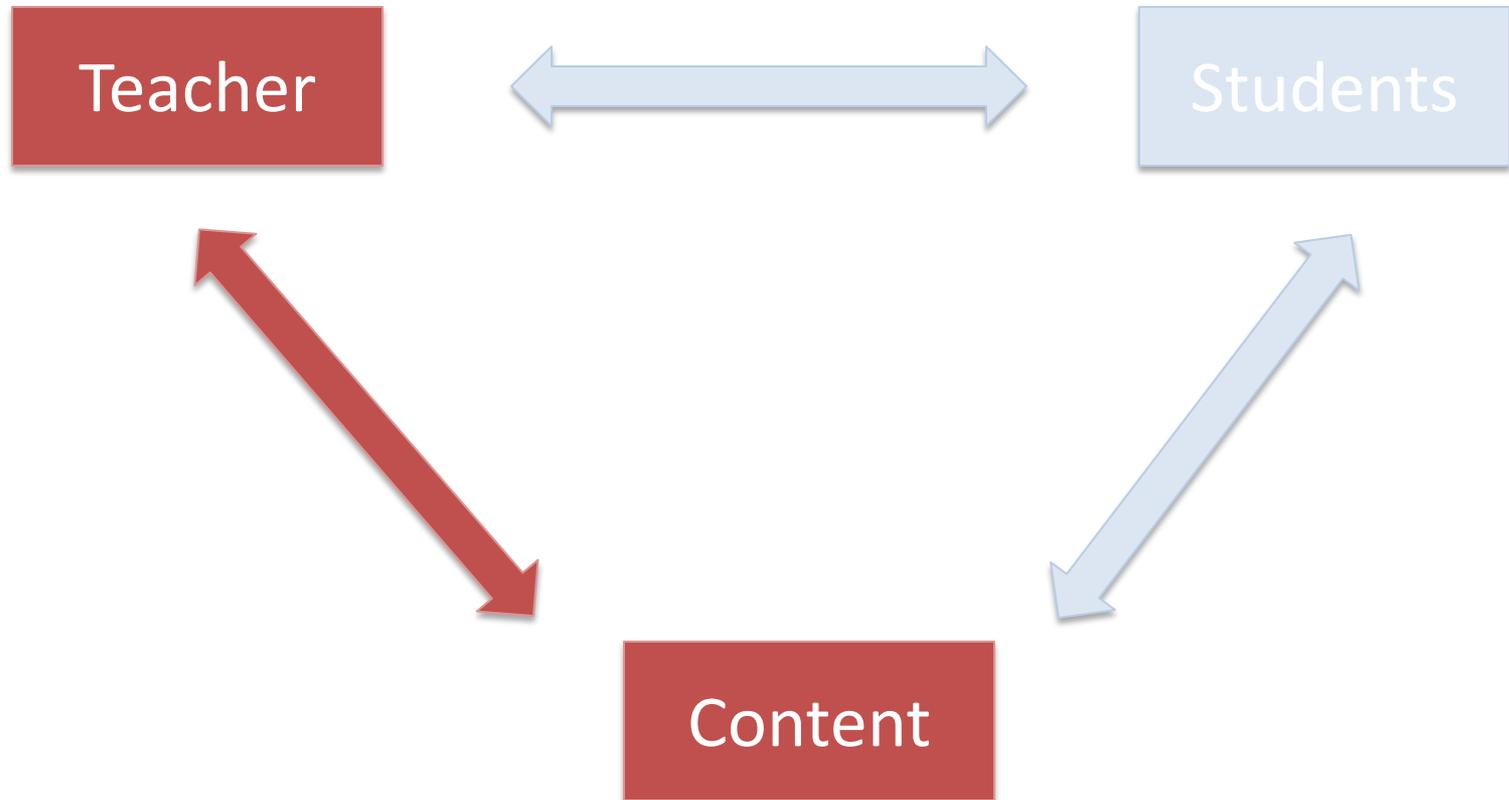
Students' Culture



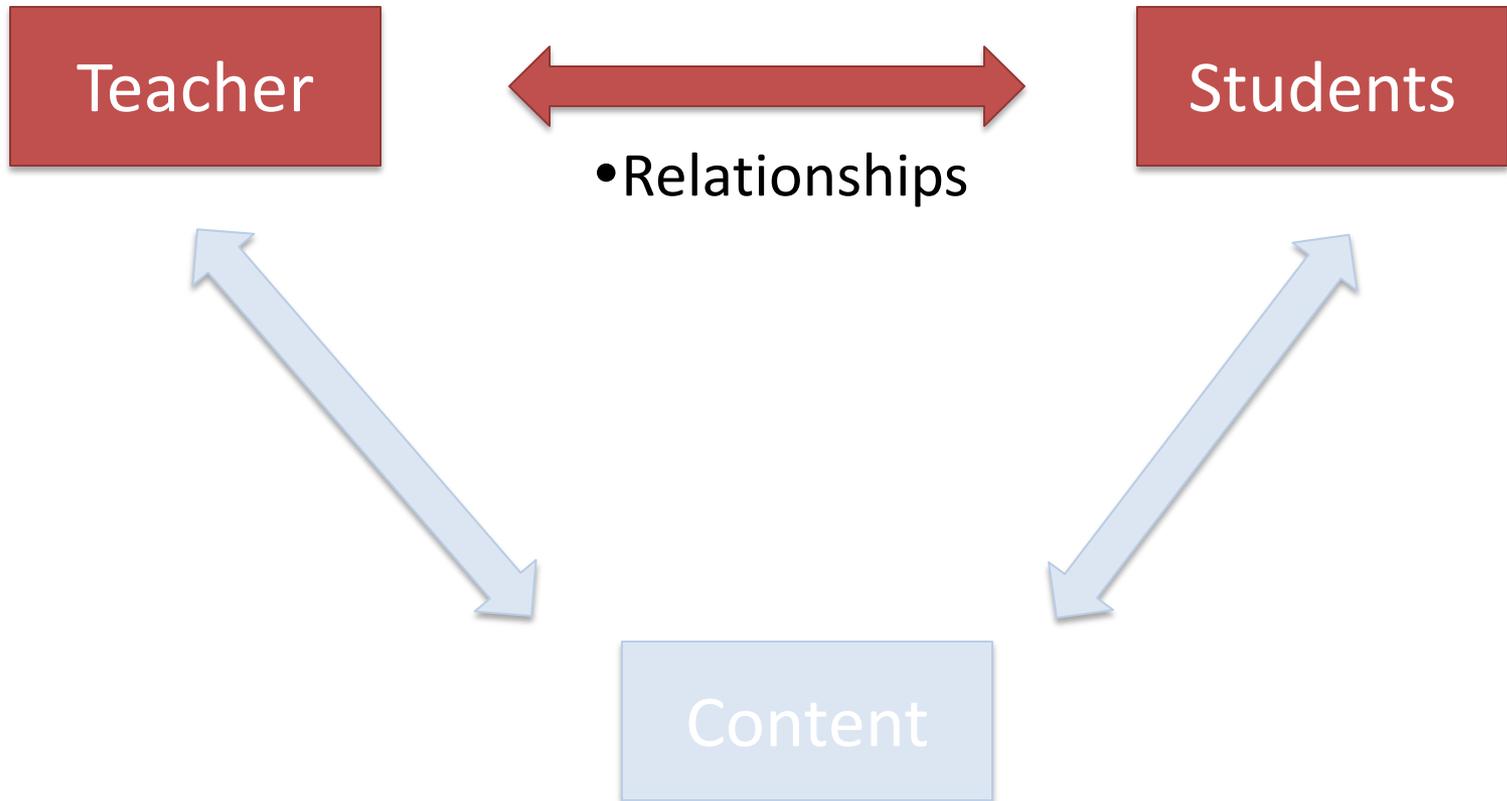
Good teaching



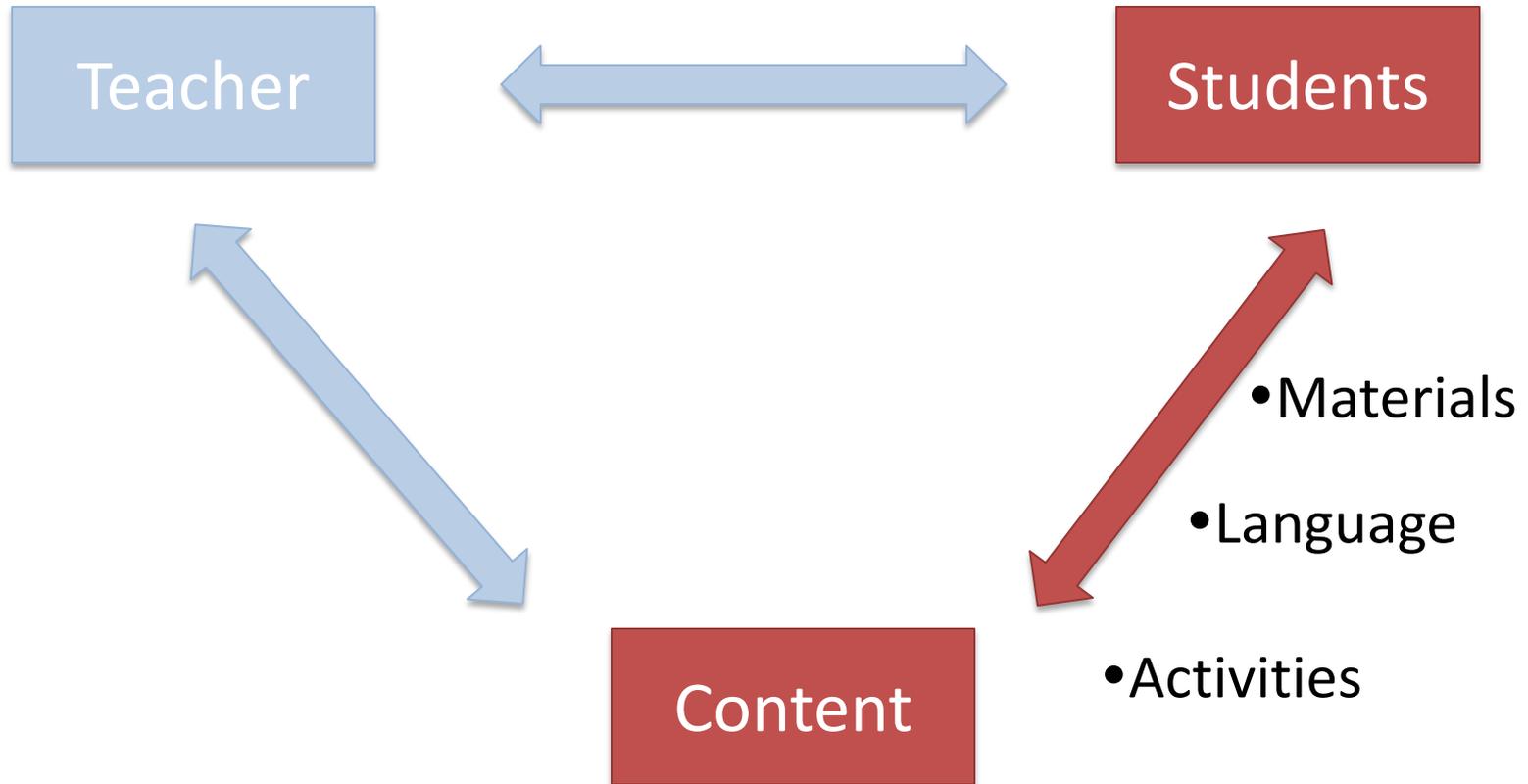
Emphasis in Traditional Teaching



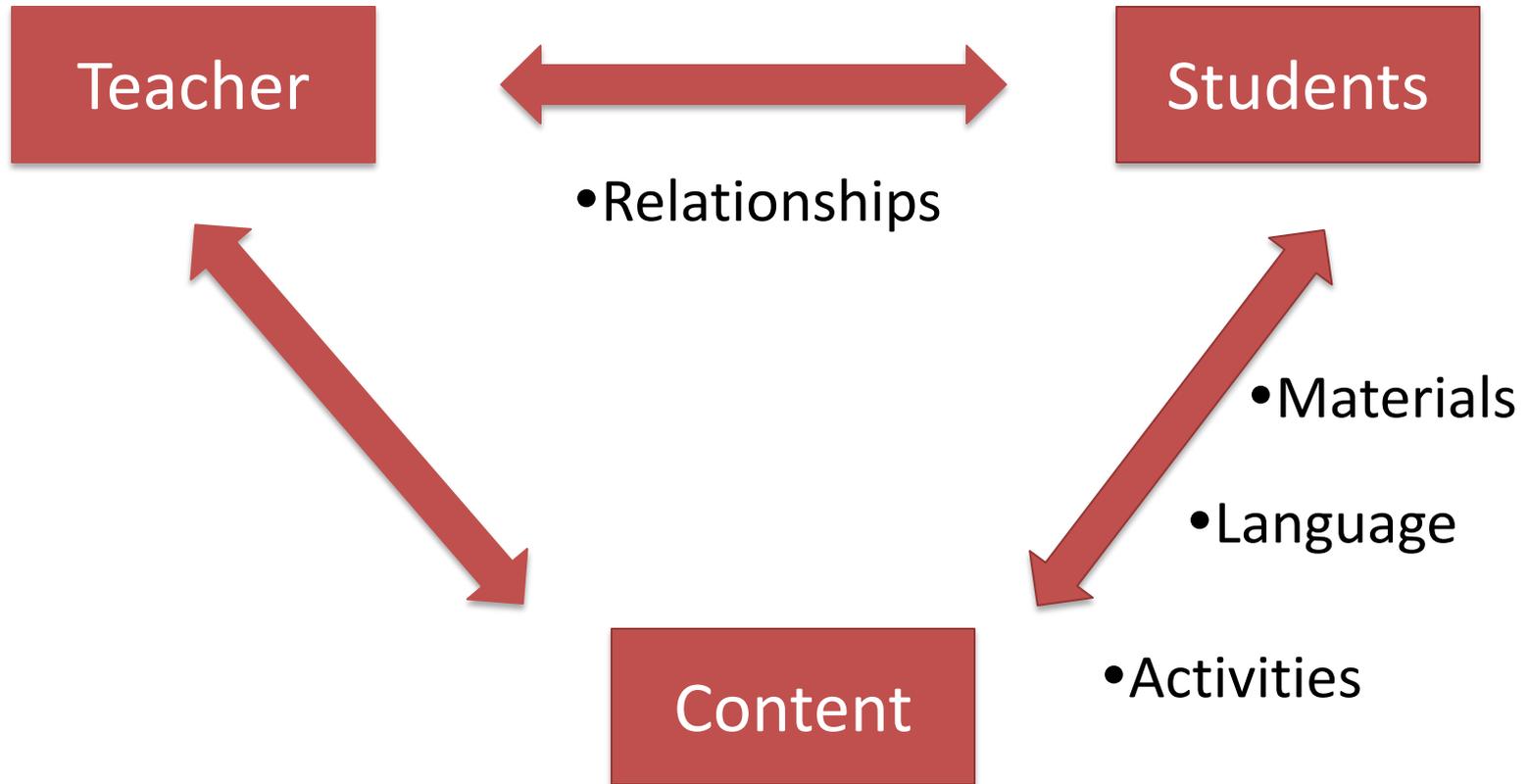
Culturally Relevant Relationships



Culturally Relevant Curriculum



Culturally Relevant Teaching



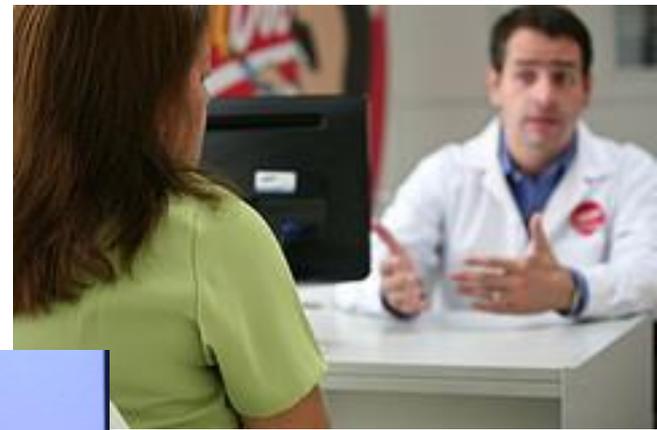




Photo Credit: Travelalaska.com

“In order to teach you, I must know you.”
–Native Alaskan Teacher



Photo Credit: Harvard University

“When you don’t have a spark of chemistry,
close relationships can be engineered.”
–Hunter Gelbach, Harvard Professor

How to Build Relationships with Students

- Spend time with students outside of class
- Be polite, open, and friendly with students
- Learn about “youth culture”
- Give students a survey to learn about them
- Use “get to know you” activities at the beginning of class

Key Teaching Idea: Find Someone Like

2



you

1 I like french fries.
I play volleyball.
I have 2 brothers.
My birthday is in May.

3 Lia likes french fries, too.
Juan plays volleyball, too.
Ana has 2 brothers, too.
Pablo's birthday is in May, too.

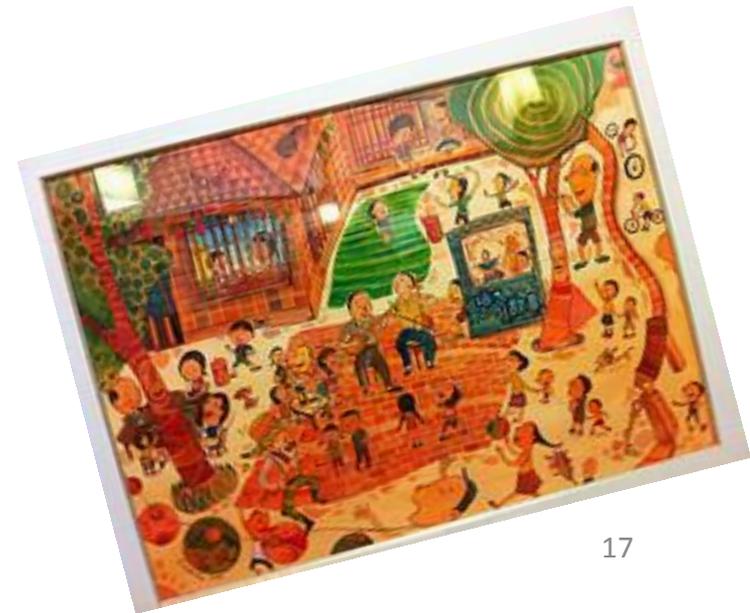
4 I also
play
volleyball!
Who do you
play with? 😊

5





Culturally Relevant Materials



Culturally Relevant Materials...

- ...show examples of students' lives.
- ...include symbols and images that students recognize.
- ...build on students' prior knowledge.
- ...show students that their personal experiences are important.
- ...can be made by students.

Key Teaching Idea: Song re-write

1. Choose a song your students know and love.
2. If the song is in your language, ask students to translate it to English.
3. If the song is in English, ask students to rewrite it as if the singer were from their culture.
4. Have students perform their songs for the class.

Song Re-write: We Are the Champions by Queen

We are the champions, my friends.
And we'll keep on fighting 'til the end!

We're stuck in traffic, in DC.
And we'll be in this traffic jam 'til lunch time!



Song Re-write: We Are the Champions by Queen

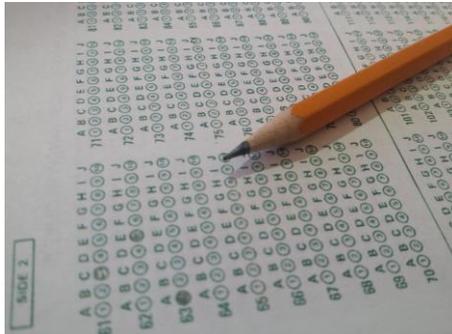
We are the champions, my friends.
And we'll keep on fighting 'til the end!

We are _____, my _____.
And we'll _____ 'til _____.

Culturally Relevant Language

Standard English

Local English

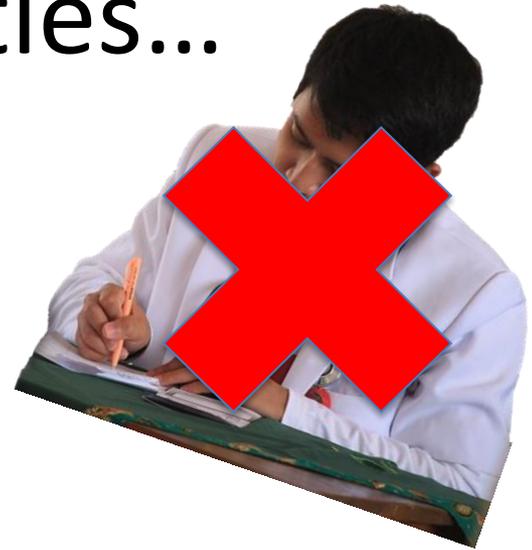


Culturally Relevant Language Examples

- Local greetings
- “Key phrases” from another language
- Public Speaking Norms
- Directness or Indirectness
- Idiomatic expressions

Culturally Relevant Activities...

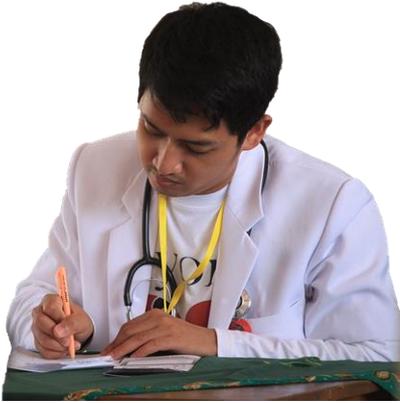
- ... are similar to student's outside-of-school experiences.
- ... are useful to students.
- ... provide opportunities for success.
- ... build on students' multiple intelligences.



Examples: Culturally Relevant Activities

- Writing e-mails, text messages, tweets, or status updates.
- Using open-ended questions.
- Asking students to write or speak about themselves and their own lives.
- Building lessons around student choice.

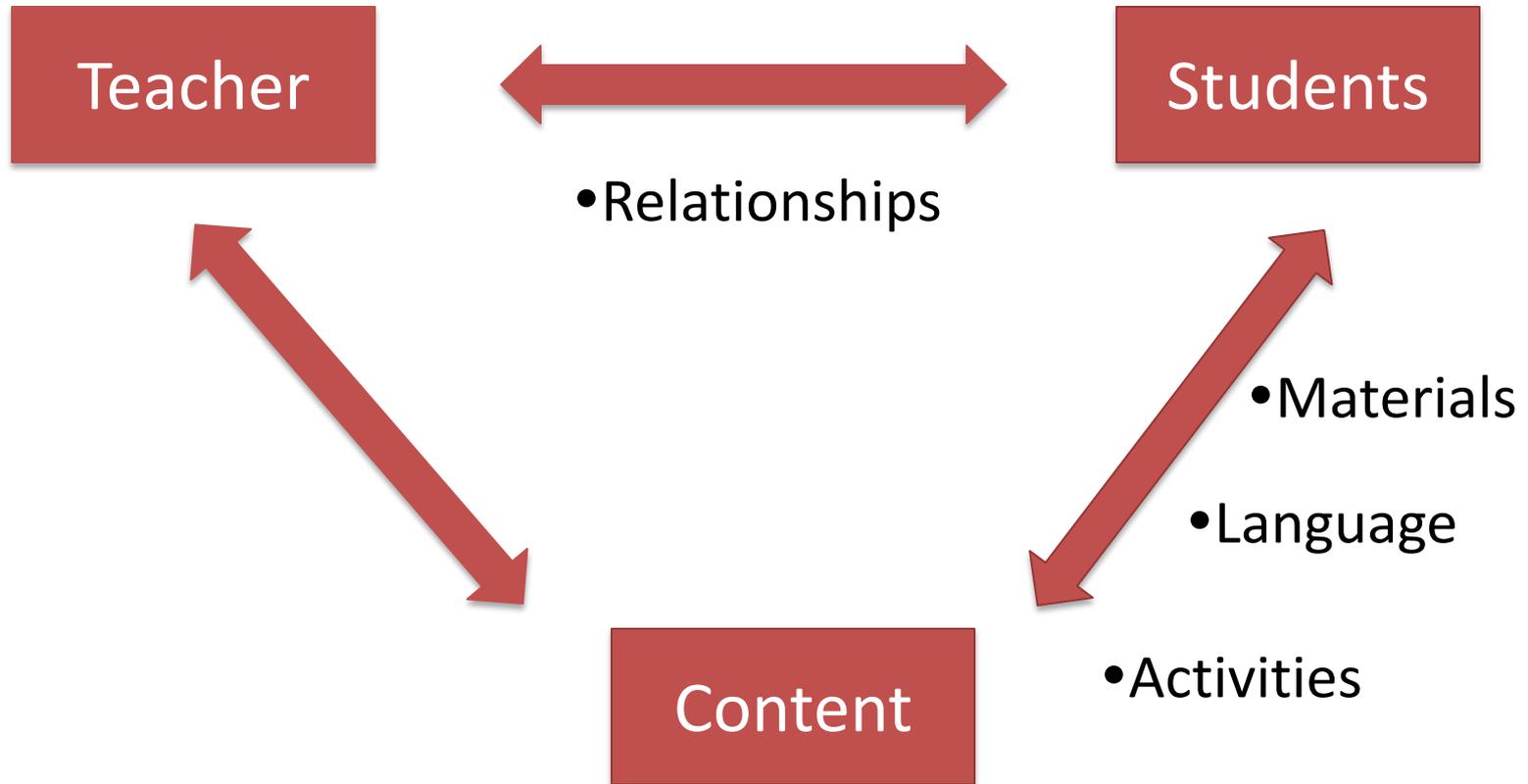
Key Teaching Idea: Choice Lessons



Objective: Students will give advice using “should.”



Conclusion



Final Question

What idea(s) from this webinar will you try in your classroom?

Thanks everyone!

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References

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