

## 5 benefits of diversity in a 21st century classroom

Mwangi, M. (2012). *5 benefits of diversity in a 21st-century classroom*. Tides Inc. <http://www.tidesinc.org/2012/09/30/5-benefits-of-diversity-in-a-21st-century-classroom/>

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Diversity is more than enrolling students of different races in a school. The school atmosphere should demonstrate celebration and acknowledgement of students from all races through arranging activities that encourages students to communicate and collaborate.

*Diverse ideas or knowledge of the content:* A heterogeneous team breeds heterogeneous thoughts. It is always an adventure when students sit together and brainstorm. Student's thoughts expressed verbally, graphically or in writing reveal a wealth of information on students thinking. The video "*Innovation through diversity*" <http://youtu.be/FjrjiSecZv0> clearly indicates that innovation occurs when diverse mind collaborate. The Center for American Progress demonstrates the same notion of diversity powering innovation in the resources found in their website: <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/education/view/>

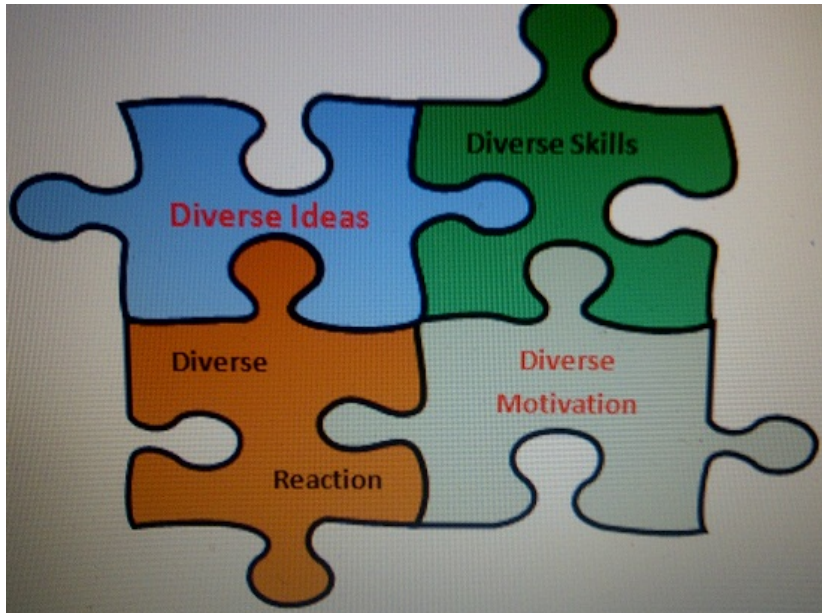
*Diverse skills:* In teamwork, student's diverse skills are harnessed to contribute and add value to the team efforts. For instance, in a jigsaw activity team members take different roles and become experts on their subject. A jigsaw activity enables students to participate in real world experience of teams, departments and so on. The experts jobs ranges from presenter, researcher, designer, and author. Also in a 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom where diverse technology present diverse challenges, an instructor fair well with the help of the skillful students who are ready to troubleshoot.

*Diverse motivation to participate:* When student work in a team, team members have an influence on each other, which contribute to the team dynamic. Uninterested students will participate in an activity if their peers are engaged.

*Diverse reaction or interpretation of situations:* Diverse personality faces challenges differently. In a diverse team there is sufficient mind power and problem solving skills. Discouraged team members are motivated when other members handle a situation positively.

Lastly, the *diverse qualities* in students interlock to produce a rigid body essential for building a healthy learning atmosphere.

In a diverse learning environment, all students are encouraged to become...



Instructors can use flexible technology to meet the needs of diverse learners:

<http://www.wested.org/cs/we/print/docs/we/home.htm>

<http://www.udlcenter.org/implementation/examples>

Instructors can teach to a diversity of abilities:

<http://www.edutopia.org/video>

<http://www.diversityweb.org/DiversityDemocracy/vol13no2/goodman.cfm>