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Week 1
Assignment 1

Definition of Cultural Diversity and Multicultural Education

Cultural Diversity to me means being at a place that reflects the world we live in. It encompasses not just one type of person, but rather various types of people from all over the world. Each person has a unique set of beliefs, customs, backgrounds, and ethnic history. It's very important that a place that is culturally diverse is a place that honors all viewpoints from these individuals. Without people of various cultures, the whole body of people remains homogeneous. While homogeneity is not a bad thing, it does limit exploration of ideas. I think progress happens at a place that fosters an exploration of ideas from multiple viewpoints (not just of one kind). Society becomes more connected, tolerant, and respectful.

Ethnocentrism is a concept that is important when discussing cultural diversity. One must be cognizant of the dominant culture and how they phrase ideas to accentuate their own world view. For example, when comparing ideas, I tend to be wary of statements that are Eurocentric, as if the history of the world revolves around the point of view of European countries. This enables "othering" when speaking of people of non-European descent. Being culturally diverse allows other viewpoints to exist. "Afro-centric," or "Asian-centric" world views in current classrooms would be nice to explore. This is what would make education "multicultural."

Education has to be multicultural because we're not living in a homogenous world. What makes education multicultural is its inclusion of human beings from all walks of life. Things to consider from an individual: class, race, ethnicity, age, ableism, national origin, sexual orientation, stature, geographic location, and politics. Each individual is unique, but there are also ways to categorize these qualities. Through this categorization, we can identify what makes society tick. We can identify trends, norms, and gaps in data. We can explore similarities and differences in each person, group, and place. This is multicultural: A melting pot of ideas exchanged and interpreted for application.