

Fostering an inclusive classroom



Amy Hansen
Julie Roden

Learning Goal:

To gain a better understanding of the benefits and challenges of diversity and approaches to foster an inclusive classroom.

Learning Objectives:

After this session you will be able to:

- Identify various aspects of diversity and articulate its possible impact(s) on teaching & learning
- Use case studies to promote discussions about diversity and inclusivity
- Develop strategies and identify resources to create an inclusive classroom



ONE MINUTE PAPER



What does a diverse classroom look like?

Write down three types of diversity you may see (or have seen) in the classroom.





How might diversity lead to *benefits* in the classroom environment?

How might diversity lead to *challenges* in the classroom environment?

Group Case Studies: The Inclusive Classroom

- Purpose – to think about different challenges to inclusivity you may face and how to approach them
- Goal – To give you some resources and strategies to equip you to lead an inclusive section

Group Case Studies: The Inclusive Classroom

- Read narratives describing “real” classroom situations
- Consider:
 - What issues does this case study raise?
 - What could the TF do in this situation? What are the consequences of each action? Generate several possible responses.
- Discuss within your small group
- Share your ideas with the whole group

Case studies - wrapup

1. What issues does this case study raise?
2. What could the TF do in this situation? What are the consequences of each action? Generate several possible responses.

Selected resources to help all students succeed in section

For TFs

- Your course teaching staff and resources (extra help sessions?)
- Bok Center for Teaching and Learning
- Accessibility Education Office
 - More for course staff – but good for TFs to know about

For Students

- Bureau of Study Council
 - Peer tutoring
 - Counseling
 - Study strategies
- Harvard Writing Center
- University Health Services

Take home message

- The Harvard classroom is a diverse environment
- TFs should consider the range of students in a section and potential benefits and challenges they bring
- Proactive addressing of issues and use of campus resources can promote an inclusive classroom