

Background Research

One of the articles that I read through discusses the presence and exploration of various cultures in the classroom. This article talks about schools on elementary, high school, and college levels. An important note that I gleaned from this article was that teachers should be attentive of their class's demographic because some cultures can reveal certain behaviors and learning styles. The author of this article, Laurie Futterman cites M.S. Rosenberg, D.L. Westling and J. McLeskey in "Special Education for Today's Teachers: An Introduction." (Futterman). These individuals provide an example of Asian students typically being quiet in class, meaning that teachers need to be more proactive in encouraging and engaging with the rest of the class. My project relates to this article because I want people to increase their cultural competency and develop a community around understanding and unity.

The second article I reviewed also discusses cultural competency, but narrows it down to five skill areas: Valuing Diversity, Being Culturally Self-Aware, Dynamics of Difference, Knowledge of Student's Culture, and Institutionalizing Cultural Knowledge and Adapting to Diversity (Vracar). Some of the key values here are respecting other culture's diversity and being open-minded about their traditions. These are major values that I want to stress in my web app, so that people begin exploring with the notion that all cultures should be respected and not judged at first glance.

My final article talks about incorporating performances and making the experience more interactive. I want to incorporate a high level of interactivity and foster a shared experience between my different users.

Bibliography

Futterman, Laurie. "Beyond the Classroom: The impact of culture on the classroom." *Miami*

Herald, 29 Sept. 2015 N.p., *Miami Herald*. Web. 9 Feb 2017.

www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/community-voices/article36727782.html

Roach, Clare. "Celebrating Your School's Cultural Diversity." *Edutopia*, 27 Oct. 2015,

www.edutopia.org/blog/celebrating-your-schools-cultural-diversity-clare-roach

Vracar, Amy. "Cultural Competency with Today's K-12 Teachers." *TeacherMatch*, 2015 Jun.

2015, www.teachermatch.org/blog/teacher-cultural-competency/