

Working with cases dealing with issues of Diversity and Social Justice

This assignment is meant to be used with pre-service teachers. Their task is to read assigned texts before the class (small group) and be prepared to share their thoughts on the texts. The texts include an introductory text to social justice issues as well as a guide how to analyze cases. Each student can read for example two case descriptions besides the introductory texts. The cases are then discussed and problematized thoroughly in the class. The cases are such that do not have one right or wrong solution. Furthermore, as the cases are from the USA, we encourage students to think of similar themes that they have encountered in their own national context.

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An example from the University of Helsinki, Faculty of Educational Science

Used in a course called *Pedagogical Interaction* for 2nd year primary school teacher students

Prior to a lesson

Student teachers are assigned with reading tasks from

Gorski, Paul, and Seema G. Pothini. Case Studies on Diversity and Social Justice Education / by Paul C. Gorski and Seema G. Pothini. New York: Routledge, 2014. Print.

Everyone needs to read chapters 1 and 2 in order to acquaint themselves with the topic as well as the interpretation of cases. Chapter 1 introduces the students to the case analysis method whereas Chapter 2 introduces the Equity Literacy Framework and Equity Literacy Process.

The students also need to read two cases which the teacher assigns. These cases are for instance these (which are examples from the variety of themes and cases in the book by Gorski & Pothini, 2014):

Chapter 4. Cases on Religion:

- 4.1 The winter party
- 4.2 Christmas lights
- 4.3 Differences in perspectives

Chapter 5. Cases on Ethnicity and Culture

- 5.1 Generalizations on display
- 5.2 Not time for stories
- 5.4 Multicultural day parade

Chapter 6. Cases on Race

- 6.2 Teaching race with Huckleberry Finn
- 6.3 Diverse Friends day

Chapter 7. Cases on Sex, Gender and Gender Identity

7.1 Boys vs. girls

7.2 Gender bias

7.3 Timmy's gender nonconformity

7.4 Internet objectification

Each of the cases presents an event, characters as well as some sort of dilemma or problematic situation dealing with equity and/or diversity. The students need to think for instance what could or should have been done differently or more sensitively and why.

During the lesson (~4 x 45 min)

During the lesson we use the collaborative teaching method (the puzzle/jigsaw method eg. <https://onderwijstips.ugent.be/en/tips/jigsaw-eeen-voorbeeld-van-samenwerkend-leren-tijden/>) so that a certain number of students all read the same two cases.

The students who have read the same two cases first sit together in groups and discuss those two cases. They share their understandings as well as their thoughts and possible different solutions to the particular situation.

After that the groups are reformed so that in the new group everyone has read different two cases. The students share the cases and propose questions for the group to discuss about each of the cases. Together they consider different solution possibilities.

At the end of the lesson

The entire group of students share together their reflections on the cases, the assignment and the group discussions.

We encourage students to reflect on similar themes they can think of in their own (Finnish) context.