

“Why Does Inclusive Teaching Matter?”

Self-Reflection Assignment Example Student Response

Before we did this exercise in class, I knew a little about the ideas of “inclusive teaching” but didn’t know what it was called or all it entailed. I had always thought about it more in terms of things like making sure material was available for those with issues hearing or seeing, but after this activity I see the ways in which representation also matters. I even compare this to representation in media (specifically children’s media) and how important it is to feel like you belong in the spaces you are learning in.

As a white cis woman who is neurotypical and without physical limitations, I realize I have some privilege in generally not feeling excluded from the classroom or other learning environments. I never have to worry that I won’t be able to learn from a video because it doesn’t have captions, for example. While my gender does sometimes make me feel not as “seen”, I do generally see myself in examples used in class and readings. That being said, in some classes, I do see how having more female representation in the class texts would be beneficial and help me see myself in my future career. I also loved learning that these strategies for inclusivity can benefit ALL students – this seems so key to remember!

My major emphasis area is the Training and Development track and so I see myself using these ideas in my future career on a regular basis. It is such a good reminder that just because I may feel represented or learn a certain way, that does not mean it is that way for everyone. Considering my classes now, I just recently asked a professor to turn on closed captions when we were watching a video in class. I did not need them, but I wondered if anyone else in class did but was perhaps unwilling to speak up. That was a simple way I helped make the classroom experience more inclusive.

