Silently think about what you are seeing.
Consider the following:

“No student acquires knowledge in the abstract; learning is always personal.”

“Learning never takes place in a vacuum; it is always contextual.”

- Emily Style - Curriculum AS Window and Mirror
“Mirrors & Windows” - Emily Style 1988

➢ A mirror reflects your own culture and helps you build your identity.

➢ A window is a resource that offers you a view into someone else’s experience.

➢ Discuss how you have experienced mirrors and/or windows in your education.
Why are mirrors important?

➢ People feel valued
➢ Sense of belonging
➢ Supports positive identity development
➢ Increased engagement in academics
  ○ Learning is always personal!
Why are windows important?

➢ Helps us develop understanding about the wider world.
➢ Creates a shared understanding and appreciation.
➢ Traditionally differences have made us uncomfortable.
  ○ “Color Blind” - thinking that ignoring differences of race, gender, region, class, etc. creates the best classroom climate.
  ○ “Partial Seeing” - problem if we want to create a classroom that serves ALL students adequately.
Why windows are important?

Shared humanity -
“Glancing through the window of another’s humanity, we can see our own image reflected in the glass of their window. The window becomes a mirror!”
- Emily Style
Balanced Education

Knowledge of both self and others.

Clarification of the known and illumination of the unknown.
Are students getting a balanced diet in your curriculum?

“Traditionally curriculum gives white males many mirrors to look in, and few windows which frame others’ lives. Women and men of color, on the other hand, find almost no mirrors of themselves in the curriculum; for them it is often all windows.” - Emily Style
W & M are not just for English & Social Science!

Headstrong
52 Women Who Changed Science—and the World

Chien-Shiung Wu
American-Chinese experimenter

Chien-Shiung Wu was a Chinese-American experimental physicist who made significant contributions in the field of nuclear physics. Wu worked on the Manhattan Project, where she helped develop the process for separating uranium into uranium-235 and uranium-238 isotopes by gaseous...
NASA’s Hidden Figures: Women You Need to Know

The movie “Hidden Figures” celebrates the African-American women who worked as NASA's "human computers." Learn more about these unsung heroes who made it possible to send Americans into space.

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P.E. & Art

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How can you start to create more Windows & Mirrors for ALL students?

- Highlight important people to your subject
- Posters / Visual representations in your classroom
- Class Discussions about student experiences
- Share YOUR story throughout the year
- Find articles, current events, video clips, etc to supplement curriculum
- More ideas?

Human Family by Maya Angelou
More Information & Resources

- Teaching Tolerance - Tolerance.org
- Nationalseedproject.org - Curriculum As Window and Mirror article by Emily Style
- Weareteachers.com/mirrors-and-windows/