

TEACHING TIPS: CREATE SPACE FOR LGBTQ+ INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



PEDAGOGIC REFLECTION

- *When international students are in your classes, what identity is the first one you tend to ascribe to them and why?*
- *Consider the lived experience of LGBTQ+ students who come from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. How might their experiences be shaped by these backgrounds and/or by the intersection of these backgrounds with U.S. higher education?*



TOP TEN TEACHING TIPS

1. Begin by **critically reflecting** on your own knowledge and assumptions about LGBTQ+-related issues.
2. Understand that LGBTQ+ lives and issues are not monolithic. The U.S. queer experience is **not the same** as queer experiences globally. This awareness prevents us from being overly reductive when we attempt to reflect LGBTQ+ lives and issues in our courses.
3. Be aware of the culturally ingrained ways that we embody our homosocial relationships and **avoid making assumptions** about your students' sexual identities based on how they behave around their friends in class or around campus.

4. Respect students' **right to their names and pronouns**.
5. Respect students' **right to self-disclose** aspects of their sexual identity in the classroom — just because they are willing to discuss these issues in an essay only you read does not mean that they want to share that information with the rest of the class.
6. Consider how you can work with your students to come to a place of respectful engagement with LGBTQ+ themes and topics. **Initiate a discussion** near the start of term about inclusivity and how it relates to your expectations and course content.
7. Find space throughout your curriculum to **include LGBTQ+ voices** and perspectives, particularly those from other parts of the world.
8. Model active listening, empathy, and **respectful engagement** for your students in your classroom practices.
9. Teach your students to engage in critical reading and discussion in a way that **values disparate world views**.
10. Be prepared to **listen and support** LGBT+ international students who may have limited opportunities to talk about their experiences and concerns; connect them to GW resources (e.g., the [LGBTQIA+ Resource Center](#)) or supportive communities ([Allied in Pride](#)) where appropriate.

