

“Improving Classroom Educational Diversity Literature Through Biblio-therapy”

In this 45-minute interactive session, I will share my college students' originally generated biblio-therapeutic book creations. As the literacy professor and published author of this literacy research project, I will be presenting my graduate college students' children's books and their corresponding content integrated lesson activities. My students created their own uniquely inspired books on sensitive and tough social issues that they, themselves, coped with as children. They found this college project very healing for them. Book topics include: bullying, disabilities, death and dying, anorexia and bulimia, multicultural distinctions, and at risk families and home life issues, etc. These original book creations improve educational diversity that is vital, in order for classroom ethical conduct by children to be demonstrated. These books exemplify meta-linguistic awareness, proper grade level language, and appropriate phrasing, vocabulary, and pictorial representations. Only just reading books already generated on social issues is not enough, and thus, I wanted my students to engage in a highly personal, emotionally charged, imaginative and authentic literacy project. Their books exemplify that learning must be meaningful, relevant, and applicable. Participants attending my session will receive my 2-page handout regarding my publication of this research project, as well as learn collaboratively through other participants, how to enhance our ethical leadership initiative of improving diversity in the elementary school classroom. All participants will be afforded the opportunity to actively participate through discussions, inquiries, and actually viewing these original children's books. The participants will see how biblio-therapy can be created in the classroom, its vitality to diversity and ensuring a bully-free zone, as well as how to integrate these social issue book topics for a literacy-driven, content integrated curriculum. Through educators including biblio-therapy into social studies, health, and reading and writing workshops, children can learn to be more tolerant, appreciative, and respectful contributing members of our global community. As ethical, educational leaders we have must remember daily, that our perceptions influence our behaviors.

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