

FIGURE 6.5 Six Aspects of Social Justice Pedagogy

WARM DEMANDER

Develop your students as human beings first.

Family & Culture: Understand and honor the strengths of the community

Authenticity: Model vulnerability and humility; be an ally; respect your students

Clear Boundaries: Show strength, listen and affirm, challenge and offer a choice

Growth Mindset: Believe in the "impossible," embrace failure

STUDENTS AS INTELLECTUALS

Develop your students as a community of warrior-scholars.

Inquiry: There is no "right answer;" questioning, evidence, students as sources of knowledge

Collective Accountability: Classroom as intellectual community

Code Switching: Academic language and discussion formats

Intellectual Challenge: High-level multicultural texts, complex problems, big ideas, less is more

KNOWLEDGE OF STUDENTS

Start where your students are, not where you want/imagine them to be.

Prior Knowledge: What do students know? What are their experiences, preconceptions?

Student Voice: What do students care about? What do they think? (examples of activities like sort, chalk talk, dot voting, etc.)

Individual Needs: Differentiation without tracking, adjusting instruction based on formative assessment

Choice: Students have real choices about how and what they learn

SAFE CLASSROOM COMMUNITY

Protect your students in a potentially dangerous world.

Prevention: Clear expectations; talk about values, teacher voice, one mic

Rituals: Mindfulness, talking circle, strong start, strong finish

Jedi Awareness and Control the Mood: Be aware of the class culture and respond proactively

Intervention: Assume positive intent; keep it in perspective; deliberate escalation, when to stop the curriculum, and when/how to remove students

TEACHER AS COACH

Let your students do the work.

Metacognition: Students should know how they learn and how to self-assess

Academic Skills: Binders, annotations, note-taking skills, etc.

Culture of Revision and Practice: Models of excellent work, multiple revisions, guided practice

Team Work: Heterogeneous groups, clear roles, focus on the process, address status

SOCIAL JUSTICE CURRICULUM

Teach a curriculum that helps students understand the real world.

Clear Purpose: Students know what they are doing and why it matters

Relevance: Curriculum helps explain the real world and oppression (including multicultural curriculum, community connections, and cross-curricular connections)

Encourage Dissenting Opinions: Critical thinking is the goal

Human Values: Curriculum grounded in justice, fairness, dignity, and cultural strengths

Source: June Jordan School for Equity.