

# Teacher Voices Worksheet

## TEACHING IN RACIALLY AND ETHNICALLY DIVERSE CLASSROOMS

→ I don't think of my students in terms of their race or ethnicity; I am color blind when it comes to my teaching.

*First Thoughts:*

**Agree Strongly**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree**

**Disagree Strongly**

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

*Why I feel this way:* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

→ I believe that I should reward students who try hard, even if they are not doing well in school; building their self-esteem is important.

*First Thoughts:*

**Agree Strongly**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree**

**Disagree Strongly**

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

*Why I feel this way:* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

→ I try to keep in mind the limits of my students' ability and give them assignments that I know they can do so that they do not become discouraged.

*First Thoughts:*

**Agree Strongly**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree**

**Disagree Strongly**

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

*Why I feel this way:* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

➔ The gap in the achievement among students of different races is about poverty, not race.

*First Thoughts:*

**Agree Strongly**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree**

**Disagree Strongly**

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

*Why I feel this way:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

➔ Teachers should adapt their teaching to the distinctive cultures of African American, Latino, Asian and Native American students.

*First Thoughts:*

**Agree Strongly**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree**

**Disagree Strongly**

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

*Why I feel this way:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

➔ Students of different races and ethnicities often have different learning styles and good teachers will match their instruction to these learning styles.

*First Thoughts:*

**Agree Strongly**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree**

**Disagree Strongly**

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

*Why I feel this way:* \_\_\_\_\_

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- In some cultures, students are embarrassed to speak in front of others so I take this into account and don't call on these students in class.

*First Thoughts:*

**Agree Strongly**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree**

**Disagree Strongly**

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

*Why I feel this way:* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- Cooperative learning involving students of different levels of achievement may benefit some students but it can undermine the progress that could otherwise be made by higher achieving students.

*First Thoughts:*

**Agree Strongly**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree**

**Disagree Strongly**

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

*Why I feel this way:* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- Before students are asked to engage in complex learning tasks, they need to have a solid grasp of basic skills.

*First Thoughts:*

**Agree Strongly**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree**

**Disagree Strongly**

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

*Why I feel this way:* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- ➔ It is not fair to ask students who are struggling with English to take on challenging academic assignments.

*First Thoughts:*

**Agree Strongly**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree**

**Disagree Strongly**

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

*Why I feel this way:* \_\_\_\_\_

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- ➔ With all the pressures to raise student achievement, finding and using examples for the cultural, historic and everyday lived experiences of my students takes away valuable time from teaching and learning.

*First Thoughts:*

**Agree Strongly**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree**

**Disagree Strongly**

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

*Why I feel this way:* \_\_\_\_\_

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- ➔ Talking about race with my colleagues could open up a can of worms; little good is likely to come from it.

*First Thoughts:*

**Agree Strongly**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree**

**Disagree Strongly**

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

*Why I feel this way:* \_\_\_\_\_

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- ➔ When students come from homes where education is not valued, they don't do their homework and their parents don't come to school events. So, I feel that my efforts to teach these students are being undermined.

*First Thoughts:*

**Agree Strongly**

**1**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree**

**2**

**3**

**4**

**Disagree Strongly**

**5**

*Why I feel this way:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_