

Five Things Teachers Can Do



1 Affirm students' identities

Students should know that their identity is an asset rather than a barrier to their success at school.

Listen to personal stories about what it means to be American.

-  [Library of Stories](#)
(We Are America)


Validate and affirm your students' stories and cultural background to encourage an authentic feeling of belonging.

-  [Wrong Sense of Belonging](#)
(Inspiring English Language Learners)
-  [Affirming Individuality and Identity Through Picture Books and Storytelling](#)
(International Literacy Association)

2 Foster a healthy school climate

Students learn best when they feel safe, supported and understood.

Draw on culturally relevant teaching and community funds of knowledge to enrich your curriculum.

-  [Education Across Borders: Immigration, Race and Identity in the Classroom](#)
(The Immigrant Learning Center)

Request professional development related to school safety and immigration.

-  [U.S. Citizen Children Impacted by Immigration Enforcement](#)
(American Immigration Council)

3 Seek opportunities to learn about justice and equality

Students benefit when teachers have a deep understanding of the role of justice and equality in schools and classrooms.

Join/create a professional network of teachers.

-  [Social Justice Standards: A Professional Development Facilitator Guide](#)
(Learning for Justice (formerly Teaching Tolerance))



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4 Use books to influence the narrative on immigration

The stories we share and the language we use to talk about immigration shape the way our students understand and interpret it.

Choose age-appropriate literature that enlightens and expands immigration narratives.

- 🌐 [Immigration Collection](#)
(Lee & Low Books)
- 🌐 [Best 60 Books About Immigrants and Immigration for All Ages](#)
(The Immigrant Learning Center)

Use books with immigrant themes both to engage students in rich discussions and to teach skills and strategies.

- Use *The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi to teach young students about character development or retelling.

Avoid stories of assimilation in which characters surrender their cultural and linguistic practices.

- ▶ [Selecting Authentic Immigration Stories from Children's Literature to Enrich Teaching and Learning](#)
(The Immigrant Learning Center)

Include stories of everyday people having everyday experiences.

- 🌐 [We Need Diverse Books](#)
- 🌐 [Using Children's Literature to Teach the Learning Arc Framework](#)
(Re-Imagining Migration)

5 Take advantage of high-quality resources

Whether teaching kindergarteners or adults, these materials and techniques can help you improve your practice.

Bookmark The ILC's free collection of resources for educators.

- 🌐 [Educator Resource Hub](#)
(The Immigrant Learning Center)

Incorporate theater!

- ▶ [Drama for Dialogue, Learning and Community](#)
(The Immigrant Learning Center)
- Theater activities can be used to support the four fundamental language skills (reading, writing, listening, speaking) and hone soft skills (public speaking, risk taking, confidence in the English language).

Help your adult students prepare for the citizenship interview with these free tools.

- 🌐 [USCIS Citizenship Practice Test, Interview and Application Resources](#)
(The Immigrant Learning Center)

Check out the map feature on Padlet! It's a great tool for task-based or project-based learning.

- 🌐 [Padlet Map](#)



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