

WHAT PEOPLE WANT

Cultural commonalities

“In all my work what I try to say is that as human beings we are more alike than we are unlike,” – Maya Angelou, poet and author

Cultural values and beliefs are so accepted by each group that they are not questioned or even need to be stated. While each culture thinks its own ways are superior, conflicts with other cultures are not always caused by our differences. Improving intercultural relationships and valuing diversity requires patience, flexibility, humility, acceptance of the unknown and, perhaps most importantly, a sense of humor.

Following are some values all humans share. By focusing on what is shared, we can break out of our ethnocentric boxes and begin to find new ways of educating all students for success in life.

In every culture:

- We respond to respect and disrespect
- We seek acceptance, and to be valued and supported
- We want to live in an environment of trust and safety
- We want to know our life experiences matter and are understood
- We want our strengths acknowledged
- We want encouragement and hope
- We do not want to be labeled and marginalized