

**Cultural Sensitivity  
&**

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**The Danger of Labels**



# **Antonio Scott**

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**K-12 Program Specialist**

**PE, Fine Arts & Driver Education**

**St Johns County School District**



# Cultural Sensitivity

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- What comprises one's culture?
- Take a moment to think of as many factors as you can that contribute to the composition of one's unique culture?

# Cultural Diversity

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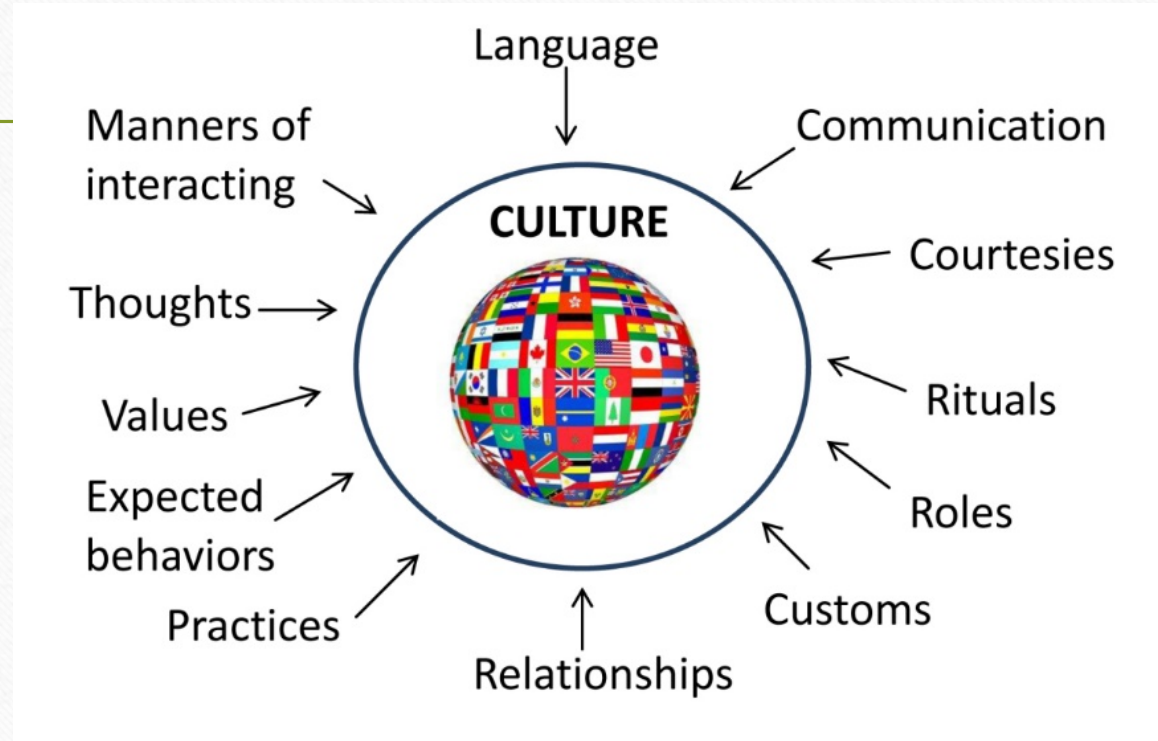
Turn to an elbow partner and compare your lists





- Family
- Gender
- Race
- Age
- Clothes
- Language
- Friends
- Religion
- School/Education
- Geography
- Sexuality
- Income of family
- Social class
- Political views
- Child Rearing
- Ethnicity
- Language
- Social organizations
- Institutional affiliations
- Electronic media
- Medical Treatment

# Unites and Divides



**Our society and school communities are more diverse than ever before.**



WHY? Why?  
WHY? Why?  
WHY?



# Labels Can Be Useful

- Product descriptions
- Portion control
- Count Calories
- Fat, sugar and salt content
- Warnings
- Benefit
- File
- Communicate





# Labels Can be Dangerous

“If you use terms to describe people—and you believe that they cannot change—then your life can **be stressful**.

~**Psychology Today**

“Humans have an innate desire to place labels on everything. Labels give people a sense of order, and a way of distinguishing things. Yet, people aren't things; they are human beings first and foremost. Using labels to describe people ignores deeper reflections of their personhood.” ~**Elite Daily.com**

- Marginalize
- Devalue
- Categorize
- Underestimate
- Villainize
- Stress inducing
- Imply fixed existence





# A Time to Reflect



- Think of a time in your life when a label was applied to you. Write the label down and a few words to provide some context.
- How did it (the label) make you feel?
- What strategies did you use to cope or survive?
- What impact did the label have on you at the time and how does it affect you now?





- Stand up and Circulate the room~
- Share the front of your label briefly with at least two other people.

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- Return to your seat and share your label with an elbow partner.
- If you have a **red dot** on your paper you will share the answer to the first question
- “ a **blue dot** on your paper you will share the answer to the second question
- “ a **yellow dot** on your paper you will share the answer to the second question





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The idea behind cultural sensitivity is very straightforward. *Cultural sensitivity* refers to a set of skills that allows you to learn about and understand people whose cultural background is not the same as yours.





Antonio Carlos Jobim Scott

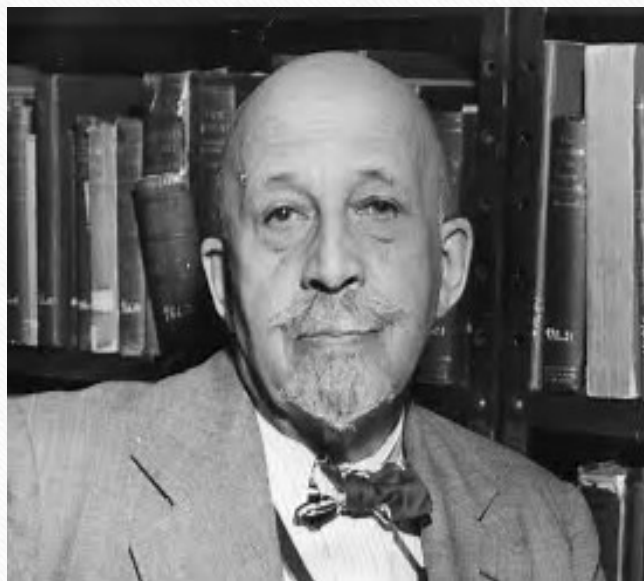
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**Born 1965**

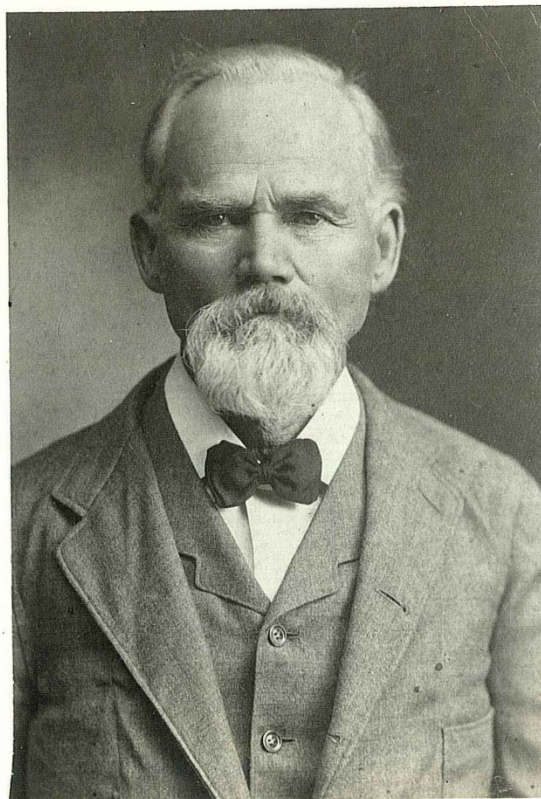
**San Jose, California**



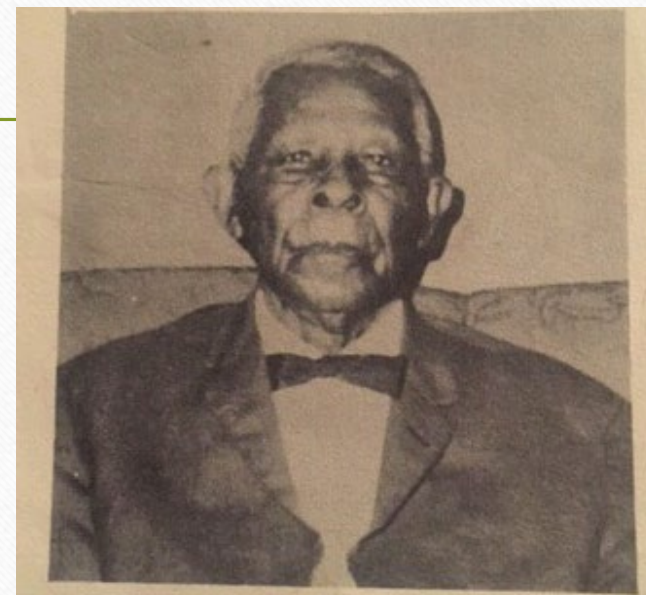
# Great Grandfather?



A



B



C

**Lemuel Scott Sr.**  
1870 -1978



# Grandparents



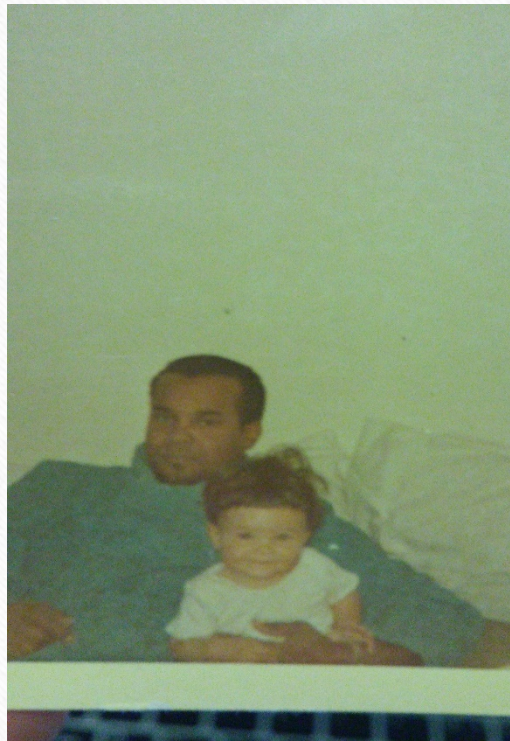


# Parents





# Early Memories





# The Brood







**Like Father  
Like Son**





# Eternally Supportive



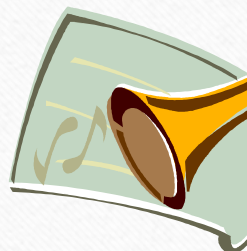
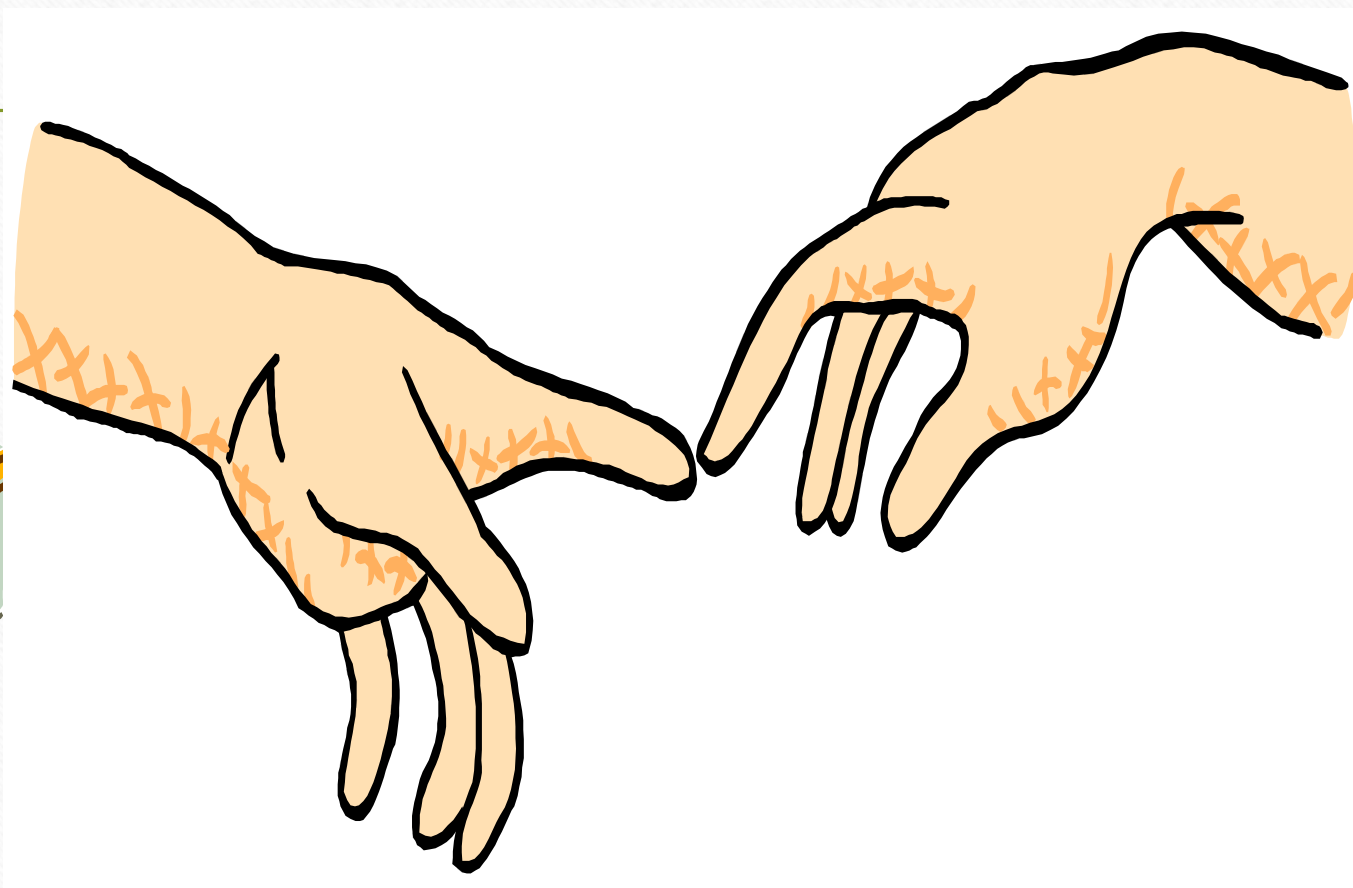
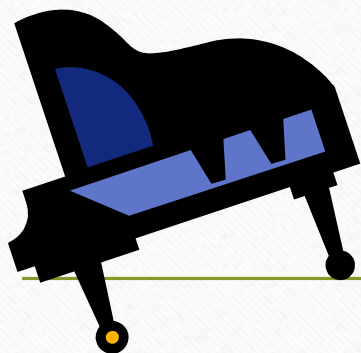


# Neighborhoods and Schools





AT AN EARLY AGE ?





# SUPPORT along the way

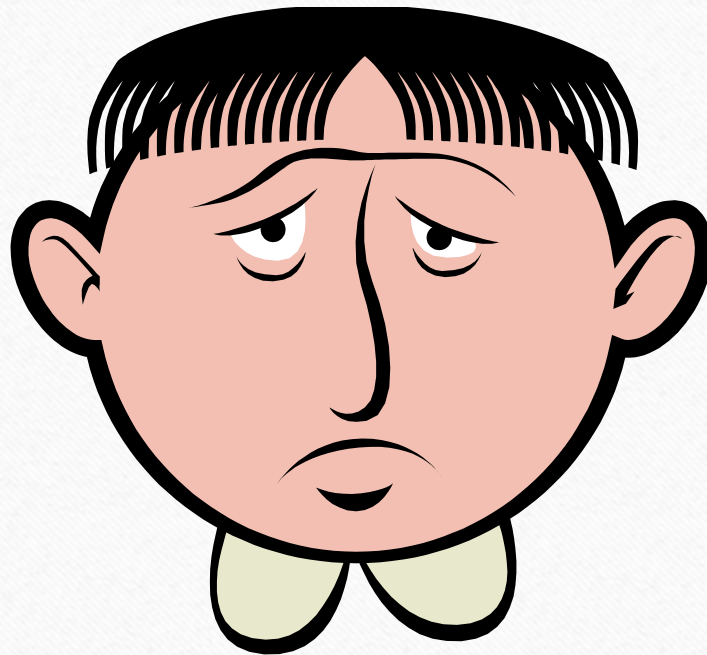
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- PARENTS
- FAMILY
- MENTORS
- TEACHERS
- COACHES
- PEERS



*Disappointment*

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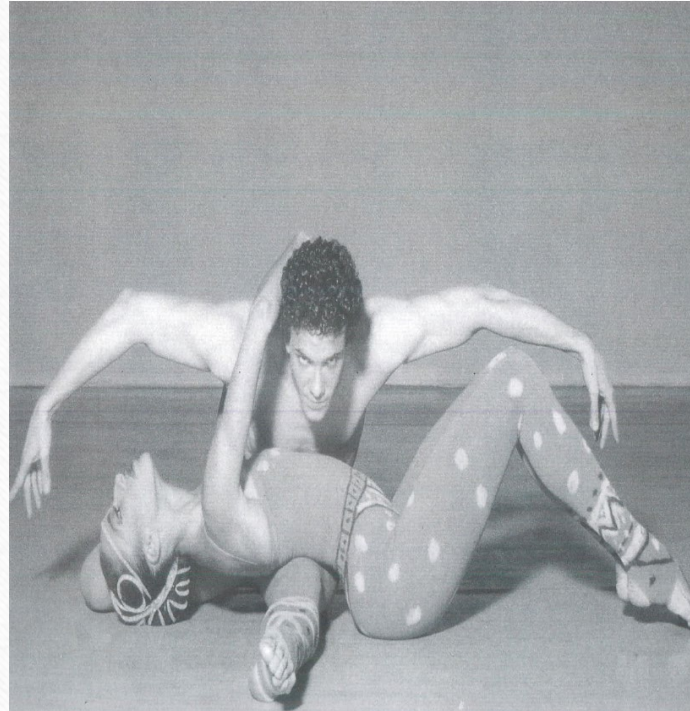
# DANCING BECAME MY LIFE



**DANCING, DANCING, DANCING... DANCING  
MACHINE**

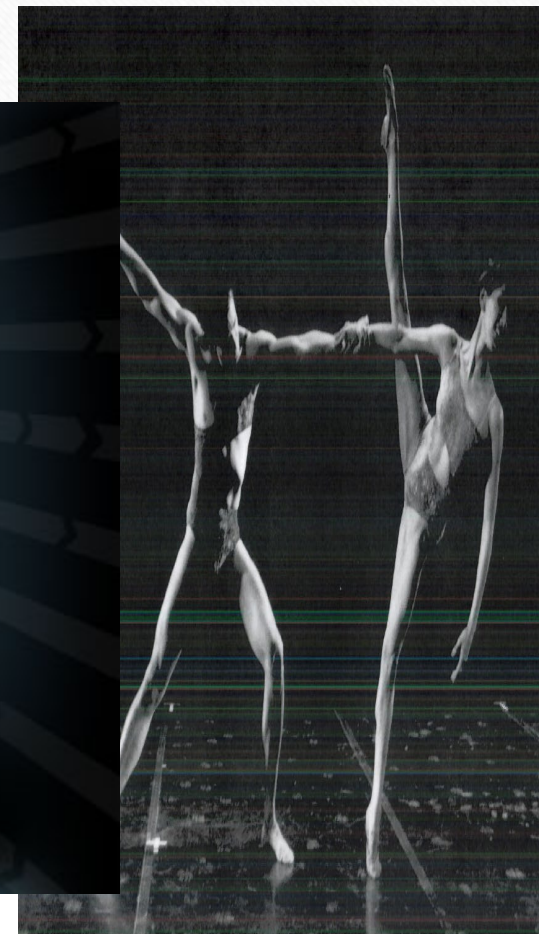


# Career Dancing for Others...1986-1994





# Launching A Dance Company 1994-2001



...has created a fascinating variation on an age-old theme. His new "Inkblots," choreographed with Mr. Richardson to music by Mr. Scott, was pure unexamined dance, an endless, mindless spectacle notable only for the zeal and expertise of its large cast. A



# MILESTONES

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- Met my future wife, 1995
- Changed my religious affiliation 1995
- Married in 1997
- Farewell Tour, 2001 retired from Dance after a 17 year career
- Began teaching at P.S. 241, in Brooklyn, NYC, 2001
- Composed Verge, 2001 for NCDT
- Master's Degree, 2003
- My son Julian was born, 2003
- Teaching in Fairfax, Virginia 2004-2008
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Master's Degree, 2007
- My son Logan was born, 2007
- MCPS, 2008 - 2017, Educator and Administrator
- Joined 2017 SJCSD





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**TO LEARN, GROW, TOUCH THE LIVES OF  
OTHERS, AND HAVE AN INTERCHANGE of  
ENCOURAGEMENT WITH AS MANY PEOPLE  
AS POSSIBLE ALONG THE WAY.**





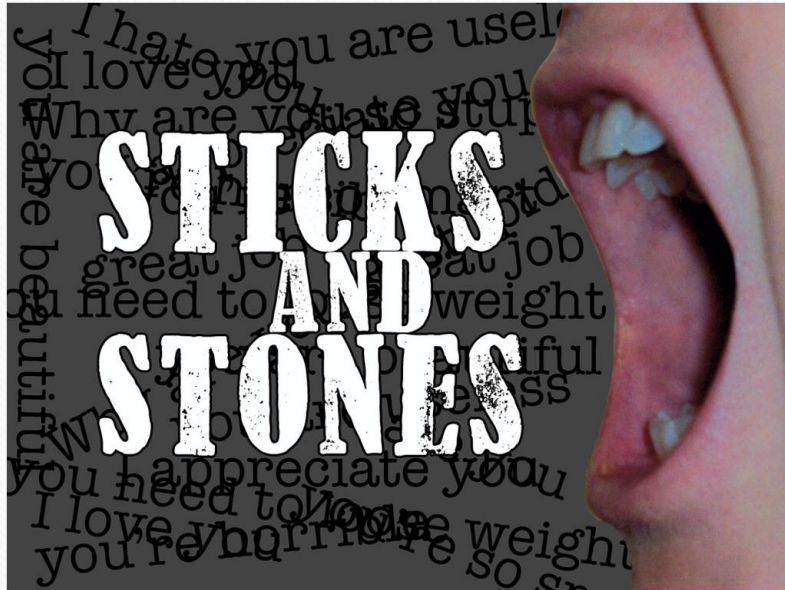
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Inspire others to aspire to their personal  
greatness









~Herb Warren

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"Sticks and stones may break my bones  
But words could never hurt me."  
And this I knew was surely true  
And truth could not desert me.

But now I know it is not so.  
I've changed the latter part;  
For sticks and stones may break the bones  
But words can break the heart.

Sticks and stones may break the bones  
But leave the spirit whole,  
But simple words can break the heart  
Or silence crush the soul.



# MANIFESTO

## YOU MATTER

~ Angela Maiers

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You Are Enough

You are Influence

You have a contribution to make

You have a gift that others need

Your actions define your impact

You are the change

You Matter



# Cultural Sensitivity Commitments

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- “Sacrifice the safety of your comfort zone by building a process for continually assessing, understanding, and challenging your biases and prejudices and how they impact your expectations for and relationships with all students, parents and colleagues.”
- Engage in a self-reflective process to explore how your identity development impacts the way you see and experience different people.
- Never stop being a student





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- Sticks and Stones May Break My Bones
  - You Matter Manifesto
  - How To Have Difficult Conversations at Work: 8 Key Steps to Keep in Mind
  - How I Begin to Have a Difficult Conversation?
  - Harvard Implicit Awareness Project
  - What is Culture: Cultural Sensitivity & Responsiveness Training ppt





Cultural Sensitivity  
The Danger of Labels

You Matter...