

# Develop critical consciousness

A suggestion for implementing the strategy  
'Develop cultural capability' from the Guide:  
[Supporting Pacific learners](#)

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- Includes:**
- Being critically conscious
  - Challenge the status quo
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Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting Pacific learners](#)

Strategy: [Develop cultural capability](#)

Suggestion: [Develop critical consciousness](#)

Date

10 July 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-pacific-learners/developing-critical-consciousness](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-pacific-learners/developing-critical-consciousness)

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## Being critically conscious

Critical consciousness involves:

- reflecting critically on the imbalance of power and resources in society
- taking critical action in the pursuit of equity
- disrupting the status quo to address oppression and strengthen equity.

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## Challenge the status quo

Conscientisation is becoming aware of the part we play in keeping things the same. How we support the status quo, how we perpetrate that. And becoming very conscious of how and why we are doing that and what are the implications of our actions.

*Conscientisation* may make us aware, but if we're not going to do anything with that thinking we're of very little help to our students. *Resistance* is the “doing” following the disruption to our practice on account of the conscientisation.

**Adapted from Poutama Pounamu**

Source:

[Poutama Pounamu](#)

<https://poutamapounamu.org.nz/assets/resources/site/Critical-theories-PP.pdf>

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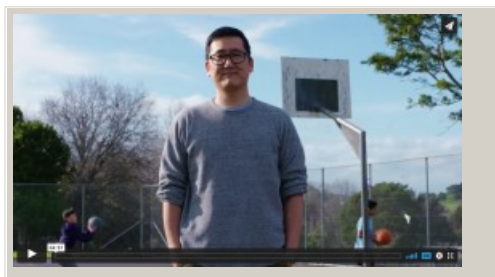
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## A personal journey

Reflect on your own cultural identity and life experiences, and how these impact on your teaching practice.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/519284960>

Closed Captions

**Source:**

Tapasa: [Knowing and sharing your own identity as a teacher](https://tapasa.tki.org.nz/teaching-stories/who-am-i/knowning-and-sharing-your-own-identity-as-a-teacher/)  
<https://tapasa.tki.org.nz/teaching-stories/who-am-i/knowning-and-sharing-your-own-identity-as-a-teacher/>

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## Decolonising education

Engage in a critically  
conscious curriculum  
both for yourself and for  
your students



Video hosted on Youtube [http://youtu.be/3\\_ZBvyXFzJI](http://youtu.be/3_ZBvyXFzJI)

Closed Captions

Source:

[TeachForAll \(YouTube\)](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3\\_ZBvyXFzJI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_ZBvyXFzJI)

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## Reflective questions

Consider your responses to these questions. What actions do they inspire?

What have I been doing unconsciously that I need to unlearn or that I need to undo, so that I can be sure that I am supporting Pacific learners to succeed as Pacific learners?

What are the things that I need to do differently?

What can I do in order to disrupt the status quo?

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## Useful resources



### Pasifika Learners Context & Connections

In this video Ruth Davidson Toumu'a skilfully and succinctly explains connections and contexts that are critical to the identity and self-efficacy of Pacific learners.

[Visit website](#)



### From Good to Great: The 10 Habits of phenomenal educators for Pacific learners

The Full Report includes 11 case studies describing the phenomenal educators involved in the project. It outlines the methodology, which is built around an Appreciative Inquiry approach. It features student talanoa about their experiences with phenomenal educators and introduces the “Ten Habits” displayed by those educators.

[Visit website](#)



### Unteach Racism

Empowering the profession to have safe and productive conversations about racism, that result in greater understanding and changes in behaviour and practice.

Publisher: Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand

[Visit website](#)

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