



ACESSE Resource G: Learning to See the Resources Students Bring to Sense-Making

In this workshop, we will build our capacity to identify the range of intellectual resources students use as they make sense of phenomena. Every student has the right to feel and be treated as fully belonging in educational settings. This resource can help support this goal by helping educators develop an asset-based stance towards the various contributions that students bring to making sense of phenomena. The resource starts by highlighting the rationale for culture-based approaches to pedagogy—and then focuses on how to identify and leverage the resources students use in moments of sensemaking.

This learning experience will help participants:

- Explore equity dimensions of sense-making through the science and engineering practices.
- Learn to see different ways students contribute to making sense of phenomena—and connect to science.
- Better appreciate that navigating multiple ways of knowing is the basic human condition—not the exception for some students.
- Make a commitment to shape instruction to supports diverse sense-making.

This workshop provides participants with an opportunity to explore important theoretical ideas by exploring examples of how learners engage in diverse sense-making. Participants will learn about some of the challenges that less expansive learning environments can cause for learners from non-dominant communities. This resource is estimated to take between 250-300 minutes (4 - 5 hours), depending on the choices of the facilitator in scenario selection. It can be used to support a full day of professional development; it has also been run as a one-hour “quick overview”.

STEMteachingtools.org/pd/SessionG



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