Reflection Activity

Treating students equally

Think about the following quote:

“Once students are considered to be deficient in some way or other, teachers begin to treat them differently, much to the students' detriment. The evidence is overwhelming. When compared to their 'high-ability' peers, 'low-ability' students are called on less often in class, given less time to respond, praised less frequently, given less feedback, criticized more frequently, and prompted less often in the case of incorrect responses”

- Villegas.

There are a few small steps that can be taken to begin to consciously treat all students equally, such as:

- Recognizing students who volunteer to participate in class (and avoid calling on or hearing from only one gender or only members of one group)
- Listening attentively and responding directly to all students' comments and questions
- Prompting students to provide a fuller answer or an explanation
- Giving students adequate time to answer a question before moving on
- Crediting student comments during your summary