

vary somewhat from group to group and change steadily with maturation, virtually all students want the following:

- A sense of safety and importance as a class member.
- A teacher who is friendly, interesting, helpful, and supportive.
- Interesting learning activities in topics of obvious value.
- Camaraderie or enjoyable association with classmates.
- Opportunity for and likelihood of success and accomplishment.
- Acknowledgment for what they do right and help with what they do wrong.

Provide those things and it is quite likely you will be a successful teacher. On the other hand, most students (but not all) dislike the following, which they will avoid if they can:

- Sitting still for long periods of time.
- Keeping quiet for long periods of time.
- Working alone.
- Memorizing facts for tests.
- Completing lengthy reading and writing assignments.
- Doing repetitive work.
- Engaging in competition when they have no chance of winning.

It is suggested that you discuss these matters with your students and explain how you will, as often as possible, provide conditions and activities they appreciate, while you will keep to a minimum those they dislike. Remember, however, that students vary somewhat in preferences. Some students like activities such as working alone and memorizing information. They will tell you if you ask.

How do socio-cultural realities influence Behavior?

Today's rapidly changing demographics bring together students from many different economic and cultural groups. Each group displays certain values, outlooks, habits, customs, aspirations, and ways of interacting. Teachers are often criticized for being insensitive to the differences among various groups.

Despite the mistakes teachers might inadvertently make, virtually all genuinely want to serve their students well and equitably. To do so, they need information that helps them understand the traits and mannerisms of students from various backgrounds, especially backgrounds different from their own. Let's take a moment to examine a few of the general differences they encounter.

values and associated Behaviors: What do schools emphasize?

The majority of schools and teachers in the Western world reflect values, beliefs, and behaviors that stem from the Judeo-Christian ethic, influenced by a capitalistic outlook, future orientation, and interpersonal equality. Following are examples of such beliefs and behaviors:

- *Time orientation.* Promptness is valued; orientation is toward the future.
- *Planning ahead.* Plans are made ahead of time to serve as guides for action.