Journaling in a way that leaves room for cultural perspectives

Culture is Invisible
"Objects bear the marks of how they've been used, giving us access to ideas that may have been too fundamental to a person's life ever to have been written down" – Katy Barrett (Cambridge University & Curator of pre-1800 art at Royal Museums Greenwich

The Dominant Culture is Western
We are raised with particular associations to things like time, age, work, leisure, etiquette, beauty, rules, parenting, norms, relationships, and interactions. These influence each and every part of our lives, and are reinforced by the systems that we interact with (such as education, health care, established means of carrying out tasks, and governance). Western culture is based on the ethos of progress, and the ways that we carry out our lives reflect a belief in this ethos. But people can of course be educated in different ways and through different means.

Action: Try thinking of different views towards things like time, age, work, leisure, etiquette, beauty, rules, parenting, norms, relationships, and interactions that you may be aware of...

Culture dictates our classrooms
Our education system is bound in western culture, which includes things like "the scientific method" "fiction & non-fiction texts" and all the aspects of our "formalized education." Why should we reflect on the ways that culture impacts our classrooms, and why is it important to make space for other ways of knowing?

How can we open our Learning to different Cultures?
Begin with an understanding of who you are, and why you are who you are. When we reflect on our own beliefs, values, expectations, and assumptions, we can better understand interactions with others as well as ourselves.

5 Pathways to Cultural Safety

The following has been learned from "Cultural Safety in Practice with Children, Families and Communities" by Jessica Ball, M.P.H., Ph.D. School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria.

Partnerships: engage in sharing, collaboration in learning, co-construct additional supports

Personal Knowledge: consider social location, and your own power, introduce yourself in this way

Protocols: show respect and ask permission, seek knowledge and demonstrate reciprocity

Process: negotiate goals and activities, talk less & listen more

Positive Purpose: build on strength, try to do no harm, but recognize when & where harm can happen proactively