

# Equity Toolkit: Inclusive Teaching and Learning

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ENGAGING IN ONGOING SELF-INQUIRY

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**COLORADO**  
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<http://masterplan.highered.colorado.gov/equitytoolkit>



# THE DANGER OF A SINGLE STORY

*TED TALK BY CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda\\_adichie\\_the\\_danger\\_of\\_a\\_single\\_story](https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story)

Reflection Questions developed by Brenda J. Allen, August 2019

In her popular TED Talk entitled, 'The Danger of a Single Story,' Nigerian author Chimamanda Adichie explores the importance of using more than one point of view. **Please watch this video at least once, and write or think about your answers to the following questions:**

Why does the presenter say it is “dangerous” to rely on a single story?

What are examples of “single stories” about you from your own educational experiences? How did or do those stories matter to your sense of self? How might they matter to your teaching attitudes and behaviors?

“Stories matter. They have been used to dispose and malign, but stories can also be used to empower and humanize. Stories can break the dignity of a people, but stories can also repair that broken dignity.” How is this quote relevant to your teaching practices? How do you (or can you) use stories in your teaching to help repair broken dignity of your students?

Consider the various social identities of students where you teach, and reflect on the types of single stories that others may believe about them. How can you mitigate negative effects of those stories through your teaching practices?