

# Me Myself I

## Summary

This professional development teaching video supports the Learning Progressions' suite of resources and focuses on 'knowing the learner'.

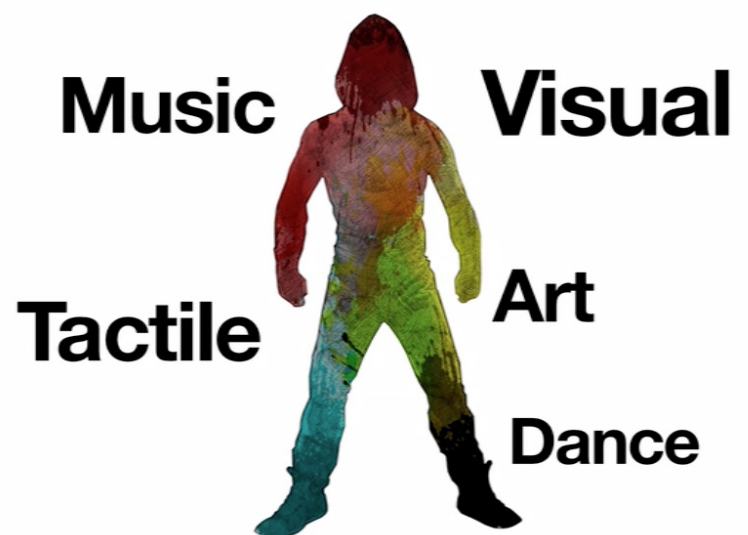
This example focuses on helping Pasifika secondary school learners transition to tertiary learning. It encourages tutors to:

- be learner-focused rather than tutor-focused
- work to the preferred learning styles of Pasifika learners.

The views in this resource have been published in the interest of encouraging understanding and debate about important education issues affecting Māori and Pasifika peoples. They are intended as a starting point for discussion to develop a range of approaches to meet the needs of learners.

## Narrative

*Me, Myself, I* is a fresh approach to engaging and empowering Pasifika learners. It uses hands-on learning techniques to work to their strengths. South Auckland, Pasifika educator, Taulu Schuster, is using art, music, story telling and poetry to bring classrooms to life and engage Pasifika learners. Research shows that many of us are kinesthetic learners – we learn best by doing and when our senses are fully engaged. That's how our brains work.



*Kinaesthetic Learning*



***The Fono Fale Model***

*Me, Myself, I* challenges traditional chalk and talk teaching styles that have failed to engage Pasifika learners. The *Me, Myself, I* model helps Generation X tutors to adjust their teaching styles. It encourages them to tune into the real needs of Generation Y and Z Pasifika learners.

The model has three parts.

- The first phase explores the learner's personality and family history.
- The second aspect strengthens their connection to their culture.
- The final part of the model creates a greater awareness of the learner's identity and upbringing.

The driving philosophy behind the model is simple. Relationships are everything. Learners don't care how much you know as a tutor, until they know how much you care as a person. You've got to know your learner before you can meaningfully engage them.

*Me, Myself, I* aims to create a supportive, family environment in the classroom that encourages full engagement in learning.

*Me, Myself, I* was inspired by the *Fono Fale* model which advocates a holistic, Pasifika-centred approach to health and education. *Me, Myself, I* is building on this work. It is encouraging tutors to think outside the square and change their teaching practice.

The hallmark of *Me, Myself, I* is a high level of trust and the quality of the relationship between tutors and learners. The real winners are the learners. *Me, Myself, I* acknowledges that learners come from many different backgrounds and bring their own experience to the classroom.

It turns culture and identity into crucial ingredients for academic success.

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How can I use this model in my teaching practice?
2. Have I identified the preferred learning styles of my Pasifika learners?
3. Where can I find out more about kinesthetic learning?
4. How can I make my teaching more active and interactive for learners?
5. How can I use music, art or poetry in my teaching?