SPEAK UP AT SCHOOL
How to Respond to Everyday Prejudice, Bias and Stereotypes

TEACHING TOLERANCE
A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
The mission of Teaching Tolerance is to promote an appreciation for diversity in schools by reducing prejudice, improving intergroup relations and supporting equity for our nation’s children.
What to expect?

- To define and identify biased language in order to recognize it on campus.

- To obtain tools and strategies to prepare you to speak up against prejudice, bias and stereotypes at school.

- To know how to prepare your students to speak up against prejudice, bias and stereotypes at school.
What is biased language?
Lame
Illegal
Ghetto
Retarded
Cheap
Gay
Prepare Yourself

- Make a commitment
- Develop ready responses
Prepare Your Students

- Intent versus Impact
- Language & Context
- Classroom Community
- Model Behavior
SPEAK UP
STRATEGIES

1. INTERRUPT
2. QUESTION
3. EDUCATE
4. ECHO
“I don’t like words like that.”

“That phrase is hurtful.”
“Why do you say that?”
“What do you mean?”
“Will you tell me more?”
“Do you know the history of that word?”
“Thanks for speaking up, Allison. I agree that word is offensive and we shouldn’t use it.”
SPEAK UP

& Take Action

Word Wall

- Establish pejoratives
- List approved words
- Post
- Commit
- Practice
SPEAK UP & Take Action

Wall of Tolerance

- Create a bulletin board that says: “Wall of Tolerance”
- Allow students to sign the wall
- Establish a pressure free environment
- Allow family members and friends to sign when visiting
Wall of Tolerance
Speak Up at School

Many of the questions we receive for our magazine column “Ask Teaching Tolerance” are from educators seeking advice about how to respond when someone—a student, a colleague, even a parent—uses biased language or stereotypes in school.

This guide is our response. It’s for educators who want to develop the skills to speak up themselves and who want to help their students be the courage to speak up too.

This guide is for the adults in the school. It offers advice about how to respond to remarks made by students and by other adults and gives guidance for helping students learn to speak up as well. We believe that modeling the kind of behavior we want from students is one of the most effective ways of teaching it.

Professional Development for Speak Up at School

Use the accompanying pocket guide when faced with biased language and situations:

1. Print front and back
2. Cut along the dotted lines
3. Fold once along the center lengthwise
4. Fold the right and left blocks with the words “INTERCEPT” and “ECHO” inward
5. Fold it in half so that “SPEAK UP AT SCHOOL” appears on the front
6. Pocket and reference often

How to Implement ‘Speak Up At School’

Professional Development: Assessing and Improving School Climate Bullying

Section 5: In Advance

Read “Teach Us” (pp. 9-19 in Speak Up At School)

After reading, respond to the following:

1. Home examples of biased language you hear at your school.
2. What words have become colloquial yet are all harmful, biased language?
3. Do your students understand intent vs. impact?
4. What are you currently doing or what have you done in the past to establish a safe environment where all students can learn?

In groups of 4-5 round robin share your answers and address the following question as a group: What words do we pledge to not accept as part of our school’s environment?

How will you and your students prepare to speak up?

Think Aloud. Think how will you and your students prepare to speak up? Pair, team to the person next to chart.

How do I prepare myself to speak up?

How do I prepare my students to speak up?

Stop and Think

Before moving on to the next section, write down strategies you use to speak up against bias, prejudice and stereotypes.

Section 6: In the Moment

Perspectives for a Diverse America

9,778 views 1 year ago

Teaching Tolerance’s Perspectives for a Diverse America is a literacy-based curriculum that marries anti-bias content with the rigor of the Common Core.

http://perspectives.toleran...
Six Practices to Build an Inclusive School Climate

Gay-Straight Alliance Clubs (GSAs)
Inclusive Leaders and Allies
Clothing and Dress Codes
Transgender and Intersex Students
Proms and Other School Events
Privacy
Five Actions to Prevent and Address Problems

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Bullying Hot Spots
- Training
- Religion
- Conversion Therapy
Q&A