

Teacher Toolkit: HARMFUL AND DEROGATORY LANGUAGE IN SCHOOLS

GUIDE 4: EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



Lesson Plans

- a. Provide lesson plans on topics such as empathy, diversity, and the effects of bullying.
- b. Suggested activities that promote teamwork, understanding, and respect among students. See list of activities below that include Role-Playing scenarios, Empathy exercises, Diversity & Inclusion workshops, Classroom discussions and debates, Reflective journals, media analysis, interactive presentations, restorative circle discussions, art projects, literature and storytelling.
- c. Will provide instructions and guided notes for each activity below.

Sample Activities to Address Harmful and Derogatory Language

By incorporating these activities into the classroom, teachers can help students understand the profound impact of their words and foster a more respectful and inclusive school environment.

1. Empathy Exercises

- Objective: Develop empathy and understanding among students.
- Activity: Have students write about a time they felt hurt by words or witnessed someone being hurt. Encourage them to share their stories (anonymously if preferred) and discuss the emotions involved and the importance of being mindful of language.



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2. Diversity and Inclusion Workshops

- Objective: Educate students about different cultures and the value of diversity.
- Activity: Organize workshops where students learn about different cultural backgrounds, traditions, and experiences. Use guest speakers, cultural artifacts, and interactive activities to engage students.

3. Reflective Journals

- Objective: Encourage personal reflection and growth.
- Activity: Ask students to keep journals where they reflect on their experiences with language, both as speakers and listeners. Prompt them to write about how they can contribute to a more respectful and inclusive environment.

4. Interactive Presentations

- Objective: Educate students about the history and impact of racial slurs.
- Activity: Create interactive presentations or digital storytelling projects where students research and present on the origins, history, and impact of racial slurs.

Encourage creative formats such as videos, slideshows, or podcasts.

5. Art Projects

- Objective: Use creativity to express and reinforce positive messages.
- Activity: Have students create posters, drawings, or murals that promote diversity, respect, and inclusion. Display their artwork around the school to reinforce these values.

6. Literature and Storytelling

- Objective: Use literature to explore themes of respect and empathy.
- Activity: Read and discuss books that address issues of race, identity, and the power of words. Use storytelling to help students connect with characters' experiences and reflect on their own language use.

Resources: Suggested Books

"The Skin I'm In" by Sharon G. Flake

"All American Boys"

by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely

"Ghost Boys" by Jewell Parker Rhodes

"The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas

"Ten Little Indians" by Sherman Alexie

"The Late homecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir" by Kao Kalia Yang

"Once I Was You" by Maria Hinojosa

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