



Equity Lesson: Our Words Matter

How to create a more inclusive school
for each and every student!

Adapted from Equity Lesson created by
RJ Coaches and Equity Coaches

First

Let's take a few minutes to review classroom norms and expectations.

What do you think is most important to focus on in our lesson today as we learn about slurs?

What are slurs?

Have you heard the term “slur” before?

What do you think it means?

Defining Slurs

A slur is an insulting, offensive or degrading remark, often based on an identity group such as race, ethnicity, religion, ethnic, gender/gender identity or sexual orientation.

Have you heard slurs used in our school?

Line Up Activity

You will listen to some statements about using slurs and offensive jokes and then decide to what extent you agree or disagree with the statement.

To show your opinion about each statement, position yourselves along an imaginary line in the room, depending upon how strongly you agree or disagree with a statement.



Activity

1. When I walk through the hallways of our school, I hear a lot of slurs and ethnic/racial jokes.
2. Adults should act as role models and not use slurs.
3. When someone makes a racial joke, you should just laugh it off.
4. Slurs and jokes are okay but should only be said in private among friends. I see a lot of slurs and offensive jokes online.
5. When you hear slurs or jokes about your group, you should say something.
6. It's okay to use a slur when talking about your own group (e.g., Black people using the N-word, girls using the B-word).
7. Words don't mean anything and people should get over it.



What Can We Do About Slurs?



Speak Up

Interrupt the person using this language in a firm and quick way.
"We don't use slurs here. Stop."

Support

Provide support for the person who is being targeted.
"Are you okay? What do you need?"

Seek Help

Find a trusted adult right away and let them know.
"Hey Mrs. Chan, I heard something I need to tell you about."

Which one of these strategies will you use?

What would our school feel like if people stopped using slurs? What would our country feel like?