Speak Up at School

How to respond to everyday prejudice, bias and stereotypes

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Teaching Tolerance Advisory Board
Our mission is to help teachers and schools educate children and youth to be active participants in a diverse democracy.
Southern Poverty Law Center

The SPLC is dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of our society. Using litigation, education and other forms of advocacy, the Center works toward the day when the ideals of equal justice and equal opportunity will be a reality.
“No, I Am Not OK.” Thanks for Asking.

As protesters across the nation rise up against police violence and systemic racism in support of Black lives, there’s something white allies need to recognize.
https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/publications

Thanks for Asking.
SPEAK UP AT SCHOOL

This guide offers advice to adults about how to respond to biased remarks and the use of stereotypes, and how to teach students to speak up as well.
Topic: Bullying & Bias

**Related Resources**

- **Webinar**
  **Speak Up at School**
  In the last webinar of our series on school climate, NEA and Teaching Tolerance will offer strategies for responding to biased remarks in a timely manner and helping students to do the same.

- **Professional Development**
  **How to Implement ‘Speak Up At School’**
  Here are activities designed for educators implementing the strategies presented in Speak Up At School to create a safe school climate.
Objectives:

Today we will

● define and identify biased language
● provide tools and strategies to prepare you to speak up against prejudice, bias, and stereotypes
● share ways to prepare students to speak up against prejudice, bias, and stereotypes
Let’s chat...

What is biased language?
Which types of biased language do you hear?

- Race
- Ability
- Religion
- Gender & Sexual Identity
- Ethnicity
How often do you speak up when these situations arise?

- I never speak up.
- I sometimes speak up.
- I speak up when I feel safe to speak.
- I always speak up.

Poll
Strategies:

➔ Interrupt
➔ Question
➔ Educate
➔ Echo

I am a person who will speak up against bias!

I will speak up every time it happens!
Interrupt

“I don’t like words like that.”

“That phrase is hurtful.”
Question

“Why do you say that?”

“What do you mean?”

“Will you tell me more?”
Educate

“Do you know the history of that word?”
Echo

“Thanks for speaking up. I agree that word is offensive and we shouldn’t use it.”
Let’s Practice:

● Interrupt
● Question
● Educate
● Echo

What would you say? Which strategy would you use?

Chat Box Discussion
- Interrupt
- Question
- Educate
- Echo

What would you say? Which strategy would you use?

Chat Box Discussion
- Interrupt
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What would you say? Which strategy would you use?
Commit to being...

- Prepared
- Positive
- Confident
- Encouraging
Commitment Board

1. Bulletin board
2. Allow students to sign
3. Establish pressure free environment
4. Allow family members and friends to sign when visiting
WALL OF TOLERANCE
Print and make your own pocket guide.

Speak Up At School Foldable Instructions
How can you use the “Speak Up at School” resources in your setting?
“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
The Greatest Gift
Is Not Being Afraid To Question

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