

Dealing Directly with language

Guidelines for Staff/Students

Disrespectful comments and applying DIRECT

D "That's so gay!. "You're so gay!"

I This comment creates a hateful atmosphere toward people who are homosexual. It would be similar to say "That's so Pat!" Meaning that any person's name could be substituted and it would imply negative feelings toward the person. That's so gay -implies being gay is not okay.

R It would be better to say "I don't like that!" "I prefer a different kind of"

E We are hurting people who may be homosexual; people who care about a homosexual person; or people who don't know if they are heterosexual or homosexual.

C Say what you mean! It would be better to say exactly what you do not like.

T Thank you for listening and I hope you will think about what we have talked about. Can I count on you to be more respectful? Can I count on you to stop using this phrase?

D "You're retarded!" "Don't be a retard!" "Ever retarded!"

I This comment creates a hateful atmosphere toward people with mental disabilities. People with mental challenges are gifted in many other ways besides intellectual capacities. Respectful people do not use the word "retarded" anymore.

R It would be better to say "Do you not understand?" or "Why are you behaving that way?"

E We are hurting people who have mental challenges because they were born that way or sometimes people have mental challenges because they have an acquired brain injury. They have other gifts that we may not have.

C Say what you mean! Don't be lazy! Use your language skills to better state what the situation or problem is.

T Thank you for listening and I hope you will think about what we have talked about. Can I count on you to be more respectful? Can I count on you to stop using this phrase?

D "That sucks!" "Life sucks!" "You suck!"

I This comment creates a negative atmosphere. It puts down an idea or suggestion without any reasoning or recommendations.

R It would be better to say "I don't like that idea." Or "I don't want to do that. Is there something else I could do instead?"

E "Sucks" does not truly explain what the difficulty is. Can you express your displeasure in a mature way?

C If you disagree with something, say why and how you disagree. Don't be lazy! Use your language skills to better state what the situation or problem is.

T Thank you for listening. I hope you will think about what we have talked about. Can I count on you to be more respectful? Can I count on you to stop using this phrase?

D. Ya, whatever."

I This comment is slang and is disrespectful. "Whatever" is a dismissal or rejection of what was said.

R Instead of Ya, it would be more appropriate to say "yes." Instead of whatever, it would be more appropriate to state what your objection is or not to say anything at all.

E When we are speaking with our friends we can use casual language, ya is casual for yes. However, when we are speaking to elderly people, to our parents, to our teachers, to police officers, it is better and will save us difficulties if we use a more formal approach. When we use ya, with whatever, there is a conflict. Ya means yes, and whatever is a rejection. So it is not clear what is meant, except it is disrespectful.

C Say what you mean! Don't be lazy! Don't be disrespectful! Use your language skills to better state what the situation or problem is.

T Thank you for listening and I hope you will think about what we have talked about. It will take time to stop saying this phrase, because it has become a quickly said comeback phrase. Can I count on you to be more respectful? Can I count on you to stop using this phrase?

D "What the F!" or any swear word or "You're a bitch!"

I This comment is disrespectful and inappropriate at any time.

R Instead of using this type of language, we can use words that express how we feel or what we think without the disrespect. "I disagree!" "Can we talk about this?"

E This is a school. We are here to learn how to use language to help us in our lives. Disrespectful language may be used in the society, in the media or on the streets but it is not tolerated here.

C Say what you mean! Don't be lazy! Don't be disrespectful! If necessary agree to disagree. Use your language skills to better state what the situation or problem is.

T Thank you for listening and I hope you will think about what we have talked about. It will take time to stop saying this phrase, because it has become a quickly said comeback. Can I count on you to be more respectful? Can I count on you to stop using this phrase?

D "You're a specky!" "He/she's a sped." [a student in special education class]

I This comment creates a negative atmosphere toward people who have difficulty learning.

R In this case, there is no restating. This is a put-down and/or an insult.

E At our school" we believe that everyone is equal and deserving to be treated respectfully.

C It is always best to treat others as you wish to be treated.

T Thank you for listening and I hope you will think about what we have talked about. Can I count on you to be more respectful? Can I count on you to stop using this phrase

January 21, 2013 –Guideline outlined with specific unwanted language by Pat Carter