



## **WAYS TO COMBAT HATEFUL LANGUAGE: THINGS TO SAY WHEN YOU HEAR “THAT’S SO GAY”**

1. ASK, “WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?” OR SAY, “THAT’S SO WHAT?”  
TYPICAL RESPONSE ~ “IT’S WEIRD, STUPID, UGLY, LAME...”  
YOUR RESPONSE ~ “THAT’S THE SAME THING AS SAYING, “GAY PEOPLE ARE STUPID, WEIRD, UGLY, OR LAME AND I FIND THAT OFFENSIVE!”
2. ASK, “HOW CAN AN ASSIGNMENT, AN IDEA, OR A SONG HAVE A SEXUAL ORIENTATION?” IF THE PERSON IS REFERRING TO AN INANIMATE OBJECT BY USING THE SLUR.
3. SAY, “YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO KNOW THAT WHAT YOU JUST SAID COULD HURT SOMEONE’S FEELINGS.”
4. SAY, “WHEN YOU USE THAT WORD IT MAKES ME UNCOMFORTABLE”, OR “THE WAY YOU ARE USING THAT WORD IS HURTFUL.”
5. SAY, “THIS IS A HOMOPHOBIA FREE ZONE” OR “THAT’S HOMOPHOBIC AND I DON’T TOLERATE HOMOPHOBIA.”
6. SAY, “GAY IS OK, DON’T BE A JERK.”
7. SAY, “IT’S PERFECTLY FINE TO USE GAY OR LESBIAN WHEN REFERRING TO PEOPLE WHO ARE GAY OR LESBIAN, BUT NOT ACCEPTABLE AS A WAY TO DESCRIBE SOMETHING SILLY OR STUPID.”
8. SAY, “DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU’RE SAYING.”
9. SAY, “OH, COME ON, PICK A NEW WORD, YOU DON’T NEED TO USE GAY TO MAKE YOUR POINT!”
10. SAY, “HAVE YOU SERIOUSLY NEVER HEARD THAT YOU’RE NOT SUPPOSED TO USE THAT WORD?”
11. WHAT DO YOU SAY??? WHAT COULD YOU SAY???