

# Diversity Activities

## The Power of Words

Diversity Council  
Diversity Toolkit  
for Business



### Overview

Language is filled with subtle nuances—words can pack hurtful power even when the intent behind them is neutral or positive. Participants in this workshop learn about making informed choices in their use of language.

### Time

1 hour

### Objectives

- Participants will
- Understand that words can hold different meanings for different people
  - Think critically about how language can reflect and reinforce power and privilege
  - Learn to make informed choices in their use of language

### Content

- Intentionality
- Reinforcing Social Structures
- Pejorative Descriptors
- Reinforcing Personal Power
- The Effects of Bias
- Solutions & Ideas

### Alignment with Workplace Goals

- Understanding the nuances and implication of language supports your efforts to build a respectful workplace where employees and customers alike feel valued.

### Previous Participants

- IBM Lunch & Learn
- University Center Rochester