



INCLUSIVE AND AFFIRMING LANGUAGE TIPS



USE GENDER-NEUTRAL TERMS

Use gender-neutral terms like "they/them" when referring to individuals whose gender identity you are unsure of. Avoid using gendered language when it's not necessary or relevant.

RESPECT PREFERRED PRONOUNS

Always use people's preferred pronouns. If you are uncertain, politely ask for their pronouns or use their name instead of pronouns until you have the correct information.

AVOID STEREOTYPES

Refrain from stereotypes or assumptions about gender, sexual orientation, or other identities. Recognize that everyone's experiences are unique, and generalizations can be harmful and disrespectful.

BE MINDFUL OF LANGUAGE



Be mindful of the language you use and the impact it may have on others. Avoid using derogatory slurs or offensive language related to someone's sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other characteristic.

RESPECT IDENTITY LABELS

Use the identity labels that individuals use to describe themselves. If someone identifies as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or any other specific term, respect their choice and use those terms.

LISTEN AND LEARN

Listen and learn from the experiences of individuals within the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Pay attention to their preferred terminology and use it accordingly. Be open to feedback and willing to adapt.

AVOID ASSUMING RELATIONSHIPS



When referring to a person's significant other or spouse, use gender-neutral terms like "partner" or "spouse" instead of assuming their gender or using heteronormative language.

USE INCLUSIVE PHRASES

Use inclusive language that recognizes and acknowledges different identities. For example, instead of saying "ladies and gentlemen," opt for "folks," "everyone," or "friends."

BE RESPECTFUL IN QUESTIONS



If you have questions about someone's identity or experience, approach them respectfully and with genuine curiosity. However, remember that it's not someone's responsibility to educate you, so be mindful of boundaries and do your own research when possible.

APOLOGIZE AND CORRECT MISTAKES



If you make a mistake or use inappropriate language, apologize sincerely and make an effort to correct yourself. It's essential to learn from your mistakes and show a willingness to improve.