

## FAST FACTS



10+  
People



45-60  
Minutes



\$5-\$10



High Risk  
Level

## “That’s so Gay” and Other Phrases You Shouldn’t Say

(Adapted from San Francisco State University)

**Purpose of Activity:** To get students to understand that language has an impact.

### Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

By actively participating in this activity, participants will:

- Understand and recognize the language they use.
- Learn to combat non-inclusive language heard in the residence halls.
- Recognize the impact of language on themselves and others.

### Materials Needed:

- Sheets of Paper with derogatory slurs.
- Two different sets of stickers.

### Ground Rules:

- Be fully present and participate at your own comfort level – challenge by choice.
  - Follow up - What does it mean to be “fully present”?
  - Follow up - What does “challenge by choice” mean?
- Push yourself outside of your comfort zone – the most learning happens when we are a little bit uncomfortable.
- Listen respectfully, share air time, and encourage others to participate.
- It’s ok for us all to be at different places with the things we discuss today.
- Show respect for one another’s beliefs, values, and experiences.
- Respect and maintain privacy.

### Disclaimer:

- These words have power and being posted can bring up some previous experiences. Be ready to facilitate discussion that comes with those feelings.

### Facilitation Guide:

- Before students come in, post the sheets of paper with the slurs all around the room.
  - The slurs can be anything derogatory, such as slut, wetback, the n-word, fag.
- When students come in, give them stickers that they can post on the word(s) that they have heard on campus.
- Give all participants a chance to go around and post on all of the words that apply.
- After the sticker application, sit residents in a circle and have the first discussion.
- Then have participants go back and place a sticker on all the words that directly harm them based on a social identity they find salient.



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- Have the second discussion.

### **Discussion Questions:**

#### First Discussion:

- Is anyone confused on the meanings/backgrounds of any of the words?
- What are some experiences that you have heard the words displayed?
- How did they make you feel?
- Did you confront the person who said the words? Why or why not?
- If you could go back, what would you have done?

#### Second Discussion:

- What would an ally look like to a group affected by this word?
  - Go through each word.
- What could be done within the residence halls to help?
- What would you do the next time you heard one of these words?