

Whether or not we understand

So what kind of

the power

of our words, we still use them...

IMPACT

do you want
to make?



MACALESTER
COLLEGE



www.macalester.edu/morethanwords

The More Than Words: Inclusive Language Campaign was created to raise awareness about the importance of using inclusive language by empowering individuals to take ownership of the words they choose to use and encourage people to examine their use of words that they know are problematic and words they feel may be just fine.

Why Does this Matter?

The words we use possess meaning and symbols, invoking and reinforcing messages. This campaign was started to help people to think about how their seemingly meaningless daily interactions, behavioral patterns, and language are tied into pervasive sociocultural beliefs, histories, and systems.

What Can we Do?

Challenging oppressive language (either our own or other's) is often times hard because it can be difficult to admit when we have been wronged or have negatively impacted others. If progress is to occur with creating a more inclusive Macalester community we must become comfortable with having these conversations about how we impact each other with our language and the cultural assumptions they demonstrate.

Your Voice. Your Choice.

This campaign strives not to box people into false binaries where use of oppressive language = you're a bad person, but rather reveal how all of our interactions, both conscious and unconscious, have meaning and impact. MTW was formed to educate and create conversations around language and inclusion on campus that can be difficult to broach. These materials were not created to be an absolute authority on what is permissible and what is oppressive language, but rather as a tool to begin and sustain conversations about what creating inclusive environments through language could look like.