

Discussion Questions: “The Power of Words”

1. Explain how the words we choose to use can have an impact on others. Identify a time when you were not so careful about what you expressed, and what the effect was to others.
2. How do words have “power?” How can ethical awareness help you understand how to use your words?
3. In the video, “The Power of Words” a teacher was suspended for comments made about the Holocaust. If you were the school’s principal, would you have given the same punishment? Explain.
4. “Academic freedom” is a term used to describe that scholars should have freedom to teach or communicate ideas or facts (including those that are inconvenient to external political groups or to authorities) without being targeted for repression, job loss, or imprisonment. This is something usually reserved for faculty in higher education. Should this be extended to K-12 teachers as well? Why or why not?
5. When do your 1st amendment rights to free speech begin, and where do they end?

