



## Tips on Using Inclusive Language

### *Avoid Assuming Individualism is the Superior Perspective*

*Why? Individualism is a common value in the United States that says people should focus more on the efforts of the individual than the group, but that consensus doesn't make the value universally true.*

<b>Example of Language that May Not Be Inclusive</b>	<b>Why it May Feel Non-inclusive</b>	<b>Suggested Revision to be More Inclusive</b>
"If everybody just took responsibility for their own actions and really tried to pursue happiness, the government would not have to interfere with the market and it could really be free."	This statement voices a way of thinking that assumes individuals are completely responsible for their economic situation and that social forces and public remedies do not play a significant role.	"If more Americans took responsibility for their own actions <i>and</i> acknowledged history's role in economic inequality, the US government's intervention in the free market would be less controversial, and more

		people might have a fairer shot at pursuing happiness.”
“The recent incidents of police brutality are due to corrupt cops who do not empathize with the communities they are sworn to protect. We will never feel safe and peaceful until they are punished, and justice is done.”	Another common expression of individualism is to focus on the “few bad apples” (or “a few corrupt cops”) explanation for social problems. This approach is problematic because it ignores the social, systemic factors that make economically challenged communities, especially non-white ones, vulnerable to aggressive over-policing.	“The recent incidents of police brutality are due to corrupt cops who do not empathize with the communities they are sworn to protect, to the unions who protect those cops, and to the economic impact of systemic racism. We will never feel safe and peaceful until they are punished, the system is changed, and justice is done.”

“Individualism: Is It a Good or Bad Thing?” *YouTube*, uploaded by *BBC Ideas*, 18 June 2019,

<https://youtu.be/LZVRIOD2DPU>.

“Philosophies of Self: East-West Distinctions.” *YouTube*, uploaded by *Big Think*, 12 March 2017,

<https://youtu.be/mabjJJDqjFM>.