



## Tips on Using Inclusive Language

### *Consider the Audience*

*Why? To help you make sure you aren't alienating your readers.*

<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>
"Society," "culture," "all of humanity," "Today/these days . . ."	A writer may have an instinctive feeling for what they mean by these words, but without a clear definition, their vagueness can be problematic. If "society is addicted to social media," then are people who can't afford the technology to access social media to begin with not part of society? Are "current times" the last ten days or ten years?	"Those with steady access to social media sites are likely to get addicted to them, according to [credible source]." "In the last ten years . . ."

<p>“Other countries are doing their part to fight climate change, so we need to do our part, too.”</p>	<p>Who are “we”? Who are “they”? “Us vs. them” statements assume that the audience is part of the same group as the writer, but this might not be so. It may also exoticize or “other” people in the “them” group.</p>	<p>“As one of the major sources of global pollution, the United States needs to take action against climate change along with [name other countries in consideration].”</p>
<p>“Life is a lot better for us now thanks to advancements in technology.”</p>	<p>Again, who counts as “us”? Technology, which is a vague enough term by itself, has not helped everyone equally, with some “advancements” coming at the cost of other people’s lives, homes, etc. Consider counterarguments someone might point out—your audience might not agree with you.</p>	<p>“Upgrades in motorized wheelchairs have improved the quality of life for many disabled people.”</p> <p>“While the Transcontinental Railroad improved transportation in America, it also helped lead to overhunting and the near-extinction of the bison that were a source of food for many First Nations.”</p>

Brown, Shan-Estelle and Mandy Suhr-Sytsma. Addressing the Everyday Language of Oppression in the Writing Center. Weblog. 21 Oct. 2008. Web. 25 May 2011.