



## Tips on Using Inclusive Language

### *Consider the Value of Other Traditions*

*Why? Critical thinkers research unfamiliar cultures to better understand how concepts and practices are perceived from different cultural perspectives.*

<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>
“The hijab is a symbol of female oppression, a tradition that needs to end if Middle Eastern countries are going to join the modern world.”	Sweeping statements about traditions that some consider controversial present issues in overly simplistic terms. Here, for example, the statement assumes one view of the hijab when the tradition is much more complex. There are many Muslim women who find the hijab liberating—a vital expression of their faith.	“In the West, the hijab is often seen as a symbol of female oppression and can be viewed as a tradition that needs to end if Middle Eastern countries are going to join the modern world. But the issue of wearing a hijab is much more complex than that.”

<p>“Access to cheaper, but still effective, computer technology will help Third World countries advance at a faster pace and catch up to the modern world.”</p>	<p>Phrases such as “Third World” and “developing countries” are problematic because they assume a standard of “civilization” or “modernity” that some societies have yet to reach—standards that usually reflect Western biases. The idea that these regions need to “develop” and “catch up” ignores the reasons why they are “behind” in the first place: the negative effects of Western colonialism.</p>	<p>“Access to cheaper, but still effective, computer technology will help countries like X continue to develop economically.”</p> <p>A step further: “Access to cheaper, but still effective, computer technology will help countries that have been damaged by Western colonialism to recover from that damage.”</p>
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