
Instead of “*dumb*”

“I’m not sure I follow—can you explain more?”

“I see it differently; here’s why...”

“I don’t think that works because...”

“Can you help me understand your thinking?”

Focuses on the idea, not the person

Encourages curiosity and discussion

Builds a respectful, inclusive classroom

Instead of *“grandfathered in”*

“Legacy status”

“Prior approval / prior agreement”

“Historical practice”

“Carried over from before”

Avoids language with exclusionary or outdated connotations

Highlights continuity and respect for what came before

Creates inclusive, professional communication

Instead of “guys”

“Hey folks”

“Everyone”

“Team”

“All”

Includes everyone, regardless of gender

Keeps communication friendly and approachable

Builds a welcoming, inclusive environment