

Educator Response Scripts for Everyday Moments

For educators: this handout is yours to download, print, and share with colleagues. Say these calmly and briefly, then move on; the goal is to reset the norm, not to win an argument.

Interrupting biased comments

If you hear: *"It was just a terrorist joke."*

You can say: "Jokes that stereotype a group aren't harmless here. In this class we keep humor respectful."

If you hear: *"All Arabs are the same."*

You can say: "Let's not generalize about any group of people. Everyone is an individual."

If you hear: *"Why is she praying? That's weird."*

You can say: "People practice their faiths in different ways, and everyone gets to feel comfortable here."

If you hear: *"You support terrorists."*

You can say: "Disagreeing is fine. Personal attacks are not. That stops now."

If you hear: *"Go back to your country."*

You can say: "That's a hurtful thing to say to a classmate, and it's not acceptable here. This is their school and their community."

Everyday inclusive language

If you hear: *"Ahmad, what do Muslims think about what's happening in the Middle East?"*

You can say: "Everyone has their own view. Anyone who'd like to share can; no one has to speak for a group."

If you hear: *"Where are you really from?"*

You can say: "Tell me about yourself and your background?"

If you hear: *"You're fasting? You don't have to do that at school."*

You can say: "Would any accommodations during Ramadan help, such as lunch space, PE, or test timing?"

If you hear: *“Let's debate which side is right about the war.”*

You can say: “We're going to analyze different perspectives respectfully; our goal is understanding, not winning.”

Supporting a student who was targeted

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“I'm sorry that happened. It wasn't okay, and it's not your fault. I'm glad you told me; here's what I'm going to do next.”

“You don't have to speak for anyone but yourself in my classroom, not today, not ever.”

“If anything like this happens again, in person or online, I want to know. You won't be in trouble for reporting it.”

Talking with the class after a world event

“Some of you may be feeling grief, fear, or anger about what's happening in the news, and people in this room may see it very differently. All of those feelings are allowed here. What is not allowed is taking it out on each other. No one in this class is responsible for the actions of any government or group, and no one will be treated as if they are.”

When to bring in others

- Any slur, threat, physical act, or repeated targeting: document it (date, words, witnesses), report it through your school's bullying/bias procedures, and check in privately with the targeted student.
- Refer serious or repeated incidents to counselors, administrators, and family liaisons; serious bias incidents are a team response, not a hallway fix.
- Political opinions expressed respectfully are not reportable conduct. Targeting a student over identity or perceived views always is.

To schedule an ING training or speaker for your school: Mail@ing.org • www.ing.org