

FIGURE 5.4 Language Matters Example Vocabulary List

Language Matters	
<p>Since we don't necessarily share a common understanding of these words in context to this inquiry unit, it is important to be clear as we communicate our ideas.</p>	
<p><u>Activist</u> noun</p>	A person who believes strongly in political or social change and takes part in activities such as public protests to try to make this happen.
<p><u>Agency</u> noun</p>	Your power to make effective change. It's your ability to make choices and decisions.
<p><u>Ally</u> noun</p>	Someone who helps or stands up for someone who is being bullied or the target of prejudice.
<p><u>Antiracist</u> adj.</p>	Opposed to the unfair treatment of people who belong to other races.
<p><u>Assimilate</u> verb</p>	<p>To take on the customs, mannerisms, and ideas of a dominant group in order to fit in.</p> <p><i>Assimilationist: Someone who takes on the customs, mannerisms, and ideas of a dominant culture.</i></p>
<p><u>Bias</u> noun</p>	<p>A preference either for or against an individual or group that affects fair judgment.</p> <p>Conscious bias involves preconceived opinions that a person is aware of, comfortable with, and/or has no intention of altering or rectifying.</p> <p>Unconscious/implicit bias is the implicitly or unconsciously internalized perceptions about certain groups of people.</p>
<p><u>Bigotry</u> noun</p>	Intolerant prejudice that glorifies one's own group and denigrates members of other groups.
<p><u>Code switching</u> noun</p>	The act of changing social behaviors, language, and appearance to assimilate to the norms of a dominant group.
<p><u>Cultural Appropriation</u> noun</p>	Taking of cultural elements—including symbols, art, language, customs, clothing, etc.—for one's own use or profit, often without understanding, acknowledgment, or respect for its value in the original culture. Results from the assumption of a dominant culture's right to take other cultural elements.
<p><u>Culture</u> noun</p>	A social system of meaning and custom that is developed by a group of people to assure its adaptation and survival. These groups are distinguished by a set of unspoken rules that shape values, beliefs, habits, patterns of thinking, behaviors, and styles of communication.

<u>Discrimination</u> noun	Treating a person or particular group of people differently, especially in a worse way from the way in which you treat other people, because of their skin color, gender, sexuality, ability, religion, etc. Discrimination is an action that can come from prejudice.
<u>Diversity</u> noun	Means different or varied. Diversity includes all the ways in which people differ, and it encompasses all the different characteristics that make one individual or group different from another. It is all-inclusive and recognizes everyone and every group as part of the diversity that should be valued.
<u>Equality</u> noun	The right of different groups of people to have a similar social position and receive the same treatment.
<u>Equity</u> noun	The situation in which everyone is treated fairly or justly.
<u>Ethnicity</u> noun	A social construct that divides people into smaller social groups based on characteristics such as shared sense of group membership, values, behavioral patterns, language, political and economic interests, history, and ancestral geographical base.
<u>Explicit</u> adj.	Communicated directly in a clear and exact way.
<u>Identity</u> noun	An individual's awareness and experience of being a member of a group; the racial and ethnic categories that an individual chooses to describe themselves based on such factors as physical appearance, cultural affiliation, early socialization, and personal experience.
<u>Implicit</u> adj.	Suggested but not communicated directly.
<u>Inclusion</u> noun	Authentically bringing traditionally excluded individuals and/or groups into processes, activities, and decision/policy making in a way that shares power.
<u>Injustice</u> noun	The condition of being unfair and lacking justice, or an action that is unfair.
<u>Institutional</u> adj.	Relating to the systems and structures within an organization.
<u>Intersectionality</u> adj.	The way in which different types of discrimination (unfair treatment because of a person's sex, race, etc.) are linked to and affect each other.
<u>Marginalize</u> verb	Treating a person, group, or concept as secondary, unimportant, inferior, or abnormal compared with those who hold more power in society.
<u>Micro-aggression</u> noun	A small act or remark that makes someone feel insulted or treated badly because of their race, sex, etc., even though the insult, etc. may not have been intended, and that can combine with other similar acts or remarks over time to cause emotional harm.

<u>Oppression</u> noun	The systematic subjugation of one social group by a more powerful social group for the social, economic, and political benefit of the more powerful social group. Oppression = Power + Prejudice
<u>Perspective</u> noun	A particular way of viewing things that depends on one's experience and personality.
<u>Power</u> noun	The ability to influence others and impose one's beliefs. Power is not only in an individual relationship but also a cultural one.
<u>Prejudice</u> noun	A pre-judgment or unjustifiable, and usually negative, attitude of one type of individual or groups toward another identity group (race, religion, gender, etc.) and its members. Such negative attitudes are typically based on unsupported generalizations (or stereotypes) that deny the right of individual members of certain groups to be recognized and treated as individuals with individual characteristics. Prejudices are learned and can be unlearned.
<u>Privilege</u> noun	Unearned social power/access/benefits a person gets just by belonging to a dominant social group.
<u>Race</u> noun	A made-up social construct, and not an actual biological fact to support worldviews that viewed some groups of people as superior and some as inferior. Race designations have changed over time.
<u>Racism</u> noun	When a person or group of people with power is/are able to act on their racial prejudice in a harmful way. <i>Racism is related to but different from racial prejudice.</i> Prejudice + Power = Racism
<u>Segregation</u> noun	The practice of keeping people of different races, religions, etc., separate from each other.
<u>Stereotype</u> noun	The false idea that all members of a group are the same and think and behave in the same way. Often a distorted view of a person/group that is not based on any fact.
<u>Systematic</u> adj.	Done in a methodical and planned way.
<u>Systemic</u> adj.	Relating to or affecting the whole of a system, organization, etc. rather than just some parts of it.
<u>Truth</u> noun	The body of real things, events, and facts. Truth is something that squares with reality.
<u>White Supremacy</u> noun	The idea (ideology) that White people and the ideas, thoughts, beliefs, and actions of White people are superior to People of Color and their ideas, thoughts, beliefs, and actions. The social, economic, and political systems that collectively enable White people to maintain power over people of other races.