

Principles of Powerful Communication

The brain thinks in pictures and associations. With every interaction we have in the classroom, how we say things is just as important as what we say, maybe even more so. When we teach, give directions, set context, or give feedback, remember these four principles:

Direct the focus:

Toward what you want, away from what you don't want

Elicit the image:

Paint a positive picture

Be specific:

Start directions with a verb

Be inclusive:

Use *let's* and *we* to include everyone



Common Statements Rephrased

Change your words to more positive and inclusive language.

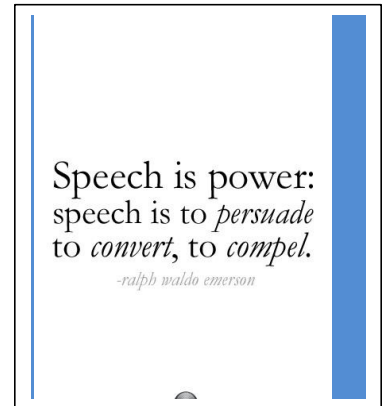
On the left are some common phrases with possible alternatives on the right.

I need you to take out your books.	Let's take out our books.
I'm going to be teaching you	We'll be learning
Now we're at the difficult part of this unit	This is easily the most challenging part of this unit you've mastered so far.
Don't talk.	Let's focus our attention to this spot.
For some of you this next section will be a challenge.	This section may be a challenge for all of us in various degrees.
Don't forget your homework.	Remember to do your homework.
Don't do that.	Let's all ... / When we go in, we'll ...
Stop talking to each other.	Please work independently.
I want you to ...	Let's ... / We're all going to ...

Openings for Directions

Use these openings to enhance the effectiveness of your directions.

- In 60 seconds ...
- Please pause.
- In a moment ...
- Please stand up. (*Make your body and voice congruent with statement.*)
- When the music starts ...
- When I say go ...
- Everyone look up, look down, look front, and clap.
- You have two minutes to ...
- Please wrap it up ... and thank your partner.
- You'll be interested to know the following ...
- There are three things to know for your success on this task.



KEG Reflection Guide

- **Know**
The extent to which you know what the outcome looks like, sounds like, and feels like is the extent to which you'll be able to communicate it clearly and get the results you want. (*Visual, auditory, kinesthetic*)
- **Explain**
KEG is a valuable tool that will help you to communicate your objectives clearly. Remember to chunk and utilize VAK languaging. (*Elicit the image, direct the focus, be inclusive, be specific*)
- **Get**
Your ability to give consistent, specific feedback lays the groundwork for a solid foundation within your learning community. (*Get outcome, give feedback, get feedback*)

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