

**What’s on tap for today: A lesson plan about Spread the Word to End the Word to address the use of the “R” word and to promote acceptance and tolerance.**

**Materials Needed:**

- Paper
- You-Tube Links: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTGo\\_dp\\_S-k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTGo_dp_S-k) (I am a Person PSA)
- <http://www.r-word.org/r-word-videos-not-all-that-different.aspx> (We’re Not That Different)

**Before the Lesson:**

- Google “Spread the Word to End the Word” for background if unfamiliar
- Write on the Board:  
March 4, 2015- National Spread the Word to End the Word Day

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**Lesson**

**Lesson:**

Give Information: (2 min.)

SAY: “National Spread the Word to End the Word day is on March 5, 2015.”

Ask: “Has anyone heard of it? Raise your hand.”

Say: “On this day people all over the country will take the pledge to eliminate the word ‘retard’ from their vocabulary. Two weeks later, Monte Vista will be hosting a school-day dance for high school students with special needs.”

Show Video: (3 min.) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTGo\\_dp\\_S-k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTGo_dp_S-k) (I am a Person PSA)

Quick-write: (5min)

ASK: “Raise your hand if you have recently used, or heard someone use, the ‘R’ word in a derogatory manner.”

SAY: “Take out a sheet of paper and respond to these questions- *“If you used the word, why did you choose it over other options? If you heard it said to someone, what was the context?”*”

\*Give students a few minutes to write their responses. When they are done ask them to respond to this next prompt:

SAY: “Now think about how the person the word was directed at. *How do you think it made them feel?* Write it down.”

Share-Out: (3min.) Ask students to share their responses.

Turn and Talk: (5 min.)

Say: “It is never okay to cut someone down using words, even if it’s in a joking manner. Using the word “retard” in a derogatory manner is offensive because it demoralizes a group of people who may have different abilities than we do but deserve to be treated the same as anyone else. Turn and talk with a partner about ways that we can change our dialogue so that we uplift people with positive words instead of cutting them down with negative words.”

Share-Out: (2min.) Ask students to share their responses.

Give Information: (2 min.)

SAY: “People with disabilities are often misjudged or defined by their disability which can be insensitive and hurtful. **When we label people with words like “retard,” we devalue them, which can change our perception of them and can alter our attitude towards them. It also perpetuates a cycle of intolerance and dismissal towards a growing demographic.** By taking the Spread the Word to End the Word pledge, you will have to opportunity to help end the use of this hurtful word, thus promoting acceptance and inclusion in our society.”

- Show Video: (3 min.) <http://www.r-word.org/r-word-videos-not-all-that-different.aspx> (We’re Not That Different)

Give Information: (2 min.)

SAY: “During brunch on March 20<sup>th</sup> you are invited to attend the Special Day Class Dance in the small gym. High school Special Day Classes from the surrounding area will be coming to hang out, have fun, and build relationships with local peers (general education and special education students). Come join the fun and help create a positive and inclusive atmosphere!”

\*If there is extra time these videos can be shown and discussed:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PE\\_5\\_BbZlbl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PE_5_BbZlbl) (John C. McGinley from Scrubs/R Word)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfMlrTV\\_5vY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfMlrTV_5vY) (Johnny Knoxville/ Eddie Barbanell and the R Word)

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**How did it go?** What worked and what didn’t? In what ways did you revise the lesson that made it work better for you? We appreciate your feedback.