

TABOO LANGUAGE SURVEY

Task #

Complete this worksheet with thoughtful, honest responses. The goal is to explore language use, not to deny or justify it. For this informal survey, you can consider taboo language to be roughly synonymous with “swearing.” Before you complete the survey, you should review the material on taboo language in your handbook and in materials distributed in class.

1. How comfortable are you with using taboo language?
  
2. What do you remember about when you first became aware of someone’s use of taboo language?
  
3. Do you remember when you first became aware of your own use of taboo language?
  
4. How regularly do you use the following words or phrases?

	Often	Sometime	Rarely	Never
Substitution curses (e.g., “gosh” instead of “God”)				
Sexual / excremental terms to describe technical functions				
swear words as general adjectives (e.g., “that’s a ____ shame”)				
curses against people or things (e.g., Well, _____ you!)				
use of <i>God, Jesus, Christ</i> as expletives				

5. Explain what difference you see with taboo language in any of these contexts:
  - ~ to yourself (but not said aloud)
  - ~ by yourself (but said aloud)
  - ~ around friends from home
  - ~ around friends at college
  - ~ around people you don’t know well
  - ~ around parents
  - ~ around teachers, employers
  - ~ around children (do you have a cut-off age?)

6. In which contexts are you MOST comfortable with taboo language? In which are the LEAST comfortable?

7. Why do you most often use taboo language?

8. What experiences, people, contexts have influenced your attitudes toward taboo language?