

Ugly Words Are Out

Introduction: This activity will give students the understanding that “ugly words” will not be accepted in your classroom.

Directions:

1. As you discuss classroom expectations, introduce the idea that “ugly words” have no place in your classroom.
2. Ask students what they think you mean by “ugly words.”
3. Have the class generate a list of words that might be found on an ugly-word list, and write the words on a piece of chart paper. Explain to students that any word that is considered a swear word would definitely be on the ugly-word list, so there is no need to mention them. Point out that the same is true for words such as dummy, jerk, dork, geek, hate, or ugly.
4. You might start a list with the word “can’t.” What about the word “quit?”
5. Go around the room and give each student an opportunity to add an ugly word to the list.
6. When you are satisfied that the students’ supply of ugly words has run dry, dramatically rip the chart paper off the pad, let it fall to the floor and stomp all over it. Next, rip it up and crush it into a ball. Make a point that these words will not be allowed in your classroom.

