

TOPIC:
GRADE LEVEL:
TIME:

Adaptable
Secondary
One Class Period



TRIGGER WORDS

OBJECTIVE: The student will be aware that the use of specific words can often bias a person's point of view.

MATERIALS:

1. Paper and pencil for each student.
2. Dictionary for each student if available.
3. Teacher Data Sheet.

PROCEDURE:

1. Place three category columns on the chalkboard and head them **POSITIVE, NEUTRAL, and NEGATIVE**. See the Teacher Data Sheet.
2. Discuss with the students how the use of different words can be used to sway opinion.
3. Brainstorm examples with the students and fill in the chart on the chalkboard by stating different parts of speech and categorizing other synonymous words that can create a specific reaction, i.e.
4. Assign students to complete a chart of their own. Using a dictionary can be helpful.
5. Ask students to share their words by reading the positive words and seeing if other students can forecast the neutral and negative words that were selected.
6. Discuss how the use of the different words to describe a person, situation, etc., can "color" or "trigger" responses.
7. Ask students to write down a descriptive paragraph of an individual or an event and try to sway the reader to a certain point of view by the "trigger" words that are used.

TRIGGER WORDS

	<u>POSITIVE</u>	<u>NEUTRAL</u>	<u>NEGATIVE</u>
VERBS:	serve advise	control urge	interfere demand
NOUNS:	officer governess	policeman nursemaid	cop servant
ADJECTIVE:	youthful meticulous	young careful	immature fussy

