

The new R word – respect

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14 years old, novel ideas, Nancy Lucas

Have you ever heard the saying sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me? That's not true. Words can hurt just as much as sticks and stones. In this essay I plan to argue that the R word should be taken out of the dictionary and that one word shouldn't have the power to someone feel so bad. Reasons why you shouldn't use the R word is because the R word was made up a long time ago and back then it wasn't a mean word it was just what you called someone who had a disability. The r word can make a difference in someone's life, and it hurts people feelings. Read to discover how one little word can make such a difference.

To begin the meaning of the R word AKA "retarded" is slow or limited intellectual or emotion development or academic process. If you had a disability you would not want to be labeled off as "slow." People with disabilities are just like normal people. They are human beings too. The R word was made up a long time ago to describe someone with a disability, but over the years people have been using it as a substitute word for stupid. Using the R word to describe someone that is stupid or dumb is very disrespectful.

Not only is the R word disrespectful but it can make a difference in someone's life. In the article "A girl and a Word" the author states, "What you call people is how you treat them, if we change words maybe that will be the start of a new attitude toward people." Also in the article "A Girl and a Word" one girl with a disability went to the president and asked him to change the phrase "mentally retarded" to "intellectually disabled." The president changed it but it will take more than a difference in the title to make a difference on how people use the R word. You can help make a difference in a disabled person's life if you stop using the R word.

All in all what is the point in using the R word? When you use the R word it doesn't just make the people with disabilities feel bad it makes regular people feel bad too. One time I was in the cafeteria and I was sitting with my friends when two girls walked past us and they were talking about their older brothers and sisters. They were calling their older siblings stupid and "retarded". My friend hear them too, and her older brother as a disability. I saw her face when she heard that word. She looked mad and sad. So not only does it make disable people feel bad but it makes their families sad too. Its funny how one little word has the power to someone feel so horrible.

In conclusion the R word shouldn't be used at all. Let alone on a day to day basis. At my house we all know this is a mean word. That's why we don't use it. At my house it's as bad as saying a cuss word. In this essay I argued that the R word should be taken out of the dictionary and that one word shouldn't have the power to make someone feel so bad. We shouldn't use it because it was made up a long time ago and back then it was just what you called someone with a disability, one word can make a difference in someone's life, and it hurts people's feelings. Words can hurt or heal. What did yours do today?