

# Appropriate Word Choice

**With so many words to choose from, it can be difficult to identify which are most appropriate for general academic discourse.**

**Although these examples of improper word choice may look the same and do indeed have many similarities between them, the important thing to remember is, that unless under special circumstances..**

## **DON'T USE THEM**



- **Slang-** Slang can be defined as “words or expressions that are considered casual, facetious, or fashionable by a particular age group, locality, or profession”
  - **ex.** You know the words that you can look up on UrbanDictionary.com? Don't use those.
- **Colloquial Words-** this includes words or phrases commonly used in informal conversation, written dialogues, or personal essays. These are generally not acceptable in formal academic writing.
  - **ex.** To name only a short few, phrases such as “kicked the bucket,” “dumb,” and “kid around” are generally inappropriate.
- **Regionalisms-** While Regionalisms can help make writing more vivid in a specific context, it is important to consider the rhetorical situation before using regionalisms.
  - **ex.** Using words such as “tank” to refer to a pond or “sweeper” to refer to a vacuum is often too informal for academic writing.
- **Jargon-** Jargon is described as “the technical language tailored to a particular occupation.” While technical language is important to specialized writing, it is not appropriate for a diverse audience. Jargon is best used when the audience can understand it.