

52 IDEAS CENSORED BY FEMINIST EDITORS

from *The Language Police* (2003)

Diane Ravitch

“This is a compilation of words, usages, stereotypes, and topics banned by major publishers of educational materials and state agencies. They have been collated from various bias guidelines that editors, writers, and illustrators use when preparing textbooks and tests. This list would be even longer if I had been able to obtain the bias guidelines from every publisher, state testing agency, and professional association.” (171) A small fraction of the long list of censored ideas are selected here from “Phrases and Usages That Must Be Avoided in Textbooks” (183):

- Avoid *man, mankind, men*
- Avoid references to the *rise of man*
- Avoid references to *great men* in history
- Do not say *you and your wife*
- Women portrayed as teacher, mother, nurse, and/or secretary...librarian
- Women in jobs with less power than men
- Women of achievement who are domineering, aggressive, lacking in desirable personal attributes
- Men earning more money than women
- Men in positions of greater authority than women
- Men as capable leaders
- Men and boys larger and heavier than women and girls
- Men in...jobs like construction, police work, physician
- Mother comforting children, giving sympathy...
- Boys playing sports
- Women more concerned about home and family than about career
- Women shopping and spending money
- Men or boys in active, problem-solving roles
- Girls as shorter, smaller than boys
- Girls as peaceful, emotional, warm
- Men and boys as strong...
- Boys as curious, ingenious, able to overcome obstacles
- Boys as intelligent, logical, mechanical
- Boys as quiet, easygoing
- Boys as independent...
- Boys as adventurous leaders, innovators
- Boys as athletic
- Boys as good at math, science
- Boys as confident, concerned with achievement, career-oriented
- People of color living in poor urban areas
- African Americans as musical
- African Americans...living in innocuous, dull...neighborhoods
- African Americans living in urban environments
- Asian Americans as very intelligent...
- Asian Americans as ambitious, hardworking...
- Asian Americans as having strong family ties
- Asian Americans as quiet, polite...
- Asian Americans working as laundry workers, engineers, waiters, gardeners, health workers
- Japanese people who are law-abiding
- Latinos who are migrant workers
- Hispanics in urban settings
- Jews as...doctors, dentists, lawyers, classical musicians, tailors, shopkeepers
- Older people...with canes, walkers or eyeglasses

Older people as funny, absent-minded or charming
Older people who have twinkles in their eyes
Older people who are retired...or are engaged in a life of leisure activities
Older people with gray hair...or in worn, outdated clothing
Older people...watching television
Older people living with...relatives
Older people with peers, people of the same sex...
Older persons who are cute, dear, docile, little, mild-mannered, spry, sweet, well-meaning
Older persons who suffer from physical deterioration

And so on...

Michael Hollister (2016)