

## VOCABULARY TABOO

Vocabulary Taboo is a strategy for learning to express the vocabulary words in language other than that memorized from a dictionary definition. In this activity, students divide into teams and take turns trying to communicate the meaning of a specific vocabulary word. To play the game, you need to have a set of Vocabulary Taboo cards. The cards should each list a vocabulary word and three or four “forbidden” words. The forbidden words should be words from the dictionary definition that the students would commonly use to describe the vocabulary word. Divide the class into two teams. One team will go first. A person from the team will come and get one of the **Vocabulary Taboo** cards. Tell them that this has a vocabulary word from their lists on it. This person must try to get his/her team to guess the word in less than thirty seconds (you may want to increase or decrease the time limit, depending on how long it actually takes them – the point is to get them to succeed, but add an incentive of beating the clock). The clue-giver will stand in front of the team and say as many clues as possible. There is one rule regarding the taboo words. These words cannot be used in any of the clues, or the team’s turn will be automatically over. Alternate turns until all of the words have been defined. Scroll down for an example of some words and how to set up the cards for the students.

## VOCABULARY TABOO

<p>WORD: DIALECT</p> <p><b>Taboo words:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mutually intelligible</b></li> <li>• <b>Language</b></li> <li>• <b>Standard English</b></li> <li>• <b>Ebonics</b></li> </ul>	<p>WORD: SATIRE</p> <p><b>Taboo words:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mark Twain</b></li> <li>• <b>Huck Finn</b></li> <li>• <b>Irony</b></li> <li>• <b>Ridicule</b></li> </ul>	<p>WORD: TWEEN</p> <p><b>Taboo words:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Motion</b></li> <li>• <b>Shape</b></li> <li>• <b>Flash</b></li> </ul>	<p>WORD: MINSTREL</p> <p><b>Taboo Words:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Langston Hughes</b></li> <li>• <b>Paul Laurence Dunbar</b></li> <li>• <b>Stereotype</b></li> </ul>
<p>WORD: CIVILIZATION</p> <p><b>Taboo Words:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Savage</b></li> <li>• <b>Barbaric</b></li> <li>• <b>Authority</b></li> </ul>	<p>WORD: RECONSTRUCTION</p> <p><b>Taboo Words:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Civil War</b></li> <li>• <b>Abolitionists</b></li> <li>• <b>Slavery</b></li> </ul>	<p>WORD: COLLOQUIAL</p> <p><b>Taboo Words:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Conversational</b></li> <li>• <b>Informal</b></li> <li>• <b>Slang</b></li> <li>• <b>Vernacular</b></li> </ul>	<p>WORD: CENSORSHIP</p> <p><b>Taboo Words:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ban</b></li> <li>• <b>Official</b></li> <li>• <b>Huck Finn</b></li> </ul>