

## What Words Should I Use?

- ❖ **Beware of putting one culture first or judging other cultures based on one cultural experience!**
  - a. Do not use the term “we” when describing *any* of the people of the past – use “they”
  - b. Beware of judgmental terms like “massacre” or “weird”
  - Example: The Powhatan uprising in 1622 killed almost one third of the English settlers. But they still held Jamestown and after ten years of fighting, the English won that war.
  
- ❖ **Virginia Indians - Native American, First Nations, First people, Native people, Indigenous people. NOT Injuns, Red Indians** Best to use group names: Powhatan, Monican, etc. We have been told by the local tribes that American Indian and Powhatan Indian are okay to use. **Never** use “squaw” or “Redskin,” and *clearly identify* a quotation as a quote if it contains the word “savage.”
  - Example: The Powhatan Indians had a tenuous relationship with the English.
  
- ❖ **Black, African American - (If they are American born of African descent) – NOT colored, negro.** Do **not** use the word “negro” as it is too close to the “N-word” and too easily misunderstood in addition to being unacceptable in modern speech. If the word “negro” is in a primary source quote, *clearly identify* the quotation and speak slowly and clearly; better yet, only have it in writing so it may be read.
- ❖ **What do we call people arriving from Africa? Africans or Blacks.** They are not African Americans – they were not born here, and in colonial times America doesn’t exist as a country.
  - Example: The first documented arrival of Africans in Virginia occurred in 1619.
  
- ❖ **Enslaved person, enslaved people, those enslaved, those held in slavery, those kept in bondage. NOT slave, servant, worker, or help.**
  - Example: Celia was a woman who was enslaved on the Moss farm.
- ❖ **Enslaver, slave holder, person who enslaved people, not master.**
  - Edward Moss had six enslaved people living and working on his farm. He had inherited most of the people whom he held in bondage and they represented more than half of his wealth.
  
- ❖ **Use religious terms correctly and respectfully. Useful generic terms are “religious leader,” “holy man/woman,” or “spiritual leader.”**
  - Examples: The English brought Anglican Christianity with them to the New World, and Reverend Robert Hunt was their first religious leader.
  - *Quiocosins*, or holy temples, were both sites of ceremonies and also housing for the Powhatan religious leaders, called *kwiocosuk* in the Powhatan language.
  - Many Angolan people were raised with combined beliefs from both Christianity and traditional religions, and sought assistance from both kinds of religious leaders.

Fix the following sentences:

We were attacked by the Indians in the 1622 massacre.

The first slaves came here in 1619 by accident.

The Indian priests would do some sort of healing mumbo-jumbo when someone got sick, and sometimes it even worked!

We brought Christianity to both the Indians and the slaves.

A slave was just like a horse or cow.

Having every man a soldier at Jamestown began the great American gun culture.

Edward Maria Wingfield was a corrupt politician, just like some you can think of today.

Examples of fixed sentences:

~~We were attacked by the Indians in the 1622 massacre.~~ Most of the English settlements were attacked by the Powhatan Indians in the 1622 uprising.

~~The first slaves came here in 1619 by accident.~~ The first recorded Africans in English North America arrived in 1619 on privateer ships.

~~The Indian priests would do some sort of healing mumbo-jumbo when someone got sick, and sometimes it even worked!~~ The religious leaders among the Powhatan Indians were also often healers.

~~We brought Christianity to both the Indians and the slaves.~~ The English had orders from King James to try to convert the Powhatan Indians to the Anglican religion. The Angolans who came to Virginia in 1619 may have been practicing Catholics or at least been exposed to the Catholic religion from their contact with the Portuguese.

~~A slave was just like a horse or cow.~~ While enslaved people were legally treated as property, they were still regarded as people capable of revolting against their situation, as reflected in laws that forbid them to have weapons and tried to control their ability to move around.

~~Having every man a soldier at Jamestown began the great American gun culture.~~ Nearly every man who arrived at Jamestown was expected to act as a soldier at least part of the time, helping to defend the colony. If you visit our sister museum, the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, you will see how they still expected most men to serve in the militia to help defend their colony 170 years later.

~~Edward Maria Wingfield was a corrupt politician, just like some you can think of today.~~ Edward Maria Wingfield was accused of corruption and sent back to England along with witnesses against him.