

# Lesson 33



**Area:** Give Constructive Criticism

**Title:** **Avoid the Negative**

**Objective:** Students generate specific ideas and words to use when giving constructive criticism.

**Materials:** “Avoid the Negative” Statements List  
(Optional: You may wish to make this into an overhead transparency for visual learners.)

**Activity:**

1. Divide the class into two equal teams.
2. Explain the directions below.

“Today’s game requires that you turn negative statements into ‘constructive criticism’. Each person will have five seconds to determine a way to transform a negative statement to a positive statement. I will be the judge. I will read to you the negative statement, and then time will begin. If you get it correct, you will earn 5 points for your team. If not, the other team gets a try for 3 points.”

3. Play the game as long as time allows or statements are unanswered.

**Closure:** Discuss the following (or journal):

1. “What kinds of statements were easy to rephrase?”
2. “What kinds of statements were difficult to rephrase?”
3. “What kinds of statements do you personally say? Does this activity help you to think of other ways of giving criticism?”



## Avoid the Negative Statements List

**Directions:** Use the following list with the lesson “Avoid the Negative”.

1. I can't do this!
2. This is so boring.
3. Today stinks.
4. We lost because of you.
5. Shut up!
6. Give me that!
7. Get away from me.
8. What a stupid idea!
9. I don't want to do that.
10. What a dumb answer.
11. Why can't I be smarter?
12. I hate doing my homework.
13. My sister is an idiot.
14. This is the worst class ever!
15. My parents are retarded.
16. This homework is pointless; it'll never matter anyways.
17. Jimmy is a big dummy.
18. This weather sucks.
19. My locker partner is a slob.
20. He's fat. He needs to lay off the Big Macs.
21. What a loser.
22. Your parents drive that old car?
23. Where did you get that...Goodwill?
24. Don't talk to her; she's "trailer trash".
25. You went to his house? Why?