

# TEACHING TOLERANCE



A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

## Critical Listening Guide

### Context

1. Where is the speaker located?
2. When was this text composed?
3. What do you know about the speaker's identity? (family, gender, race, age, religion, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, abilities, interests, language, etc.)
4. How does the speaker's context or identity influence the content of this text (i.e., what the speaker says)?
5. How does the speaker's context or identity influence the way the text is presented (i.e., how the speaker says it)?

### Audience

1. Who is the speaker's intended or immediate audience?
2. Does the speaker make any assumption(s) about the audience? Explain.
3. Who is the wider audience of this text? Who is listening or responding to this text?
4. What might a listener bring to this text that could influence the way she/he interprets the content?
5. How has the identity and context of the audience (the listener or responder) impacted what the speaker is saying and how she/he says it?

### Purpose

1. Why was this text composed?
2. What is the speaker hoping to achieve?
3. How does the purpose of this text impact what the speaker says and how he or she says it?

### Values

1. What values does the speaker communicate? How do you know?
2. How does the speaker's identity impact his or her values?
3. To what extent does the speaker help the listener understand his or her values?

### Style

1. Connotation
2. Irony
3. Register (formal/informal)
4. Sarcasm
5. Tone