

# Anti-Ableism in the Classroom:



A STUDENT-INFORMED GUIDE FOR INCLUSIVE TEACHING PRACTICES AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

## What is **anti-ableism**?

Anti-ableism goes beyond the complacency/neutrality of being “not ableist” to describe those who actively work against ableism in everyday life.

## Students’ Voices

How ableism enacted from various community members impacts students:

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Fellow Students</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Harmful use of misrepresentative words</li><li>• Lack of intervention by bystander students</li></ul>   |
| <b>Advisors &amp; Admin</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relaxed Covid protocols which target vulnerable students</li><li>• Requiring expensive formal documentation to receive accommodations</li></ul> |
| <b>Instructors</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Frustration from professors not adequately following students’ accommodations</li></ul>   |

## What can *you* do?

- Be **flexible** with students’ needs.
  - Adaptable attendance policies, encouraging open communication, offering hybrid modalities
- Ensure course materials are **accessible**.
  - Screen reader compatible resources, minimize cost barriers
- Be **proactive** in practicing radical access.
  - Open yourself to meeting students’ needs beyond the required minimum, examine your relationship with the accommodations model
- **Diversify** your curriculum to accommodate student needs.
  - Offer assessments in varying modalities, offer group work options with differing levels of interaction