



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Fix Insulting Compliments

An activity of "Was that a compliment or an insult?"

Read **"Was that a compliment or an insult?"** (page 11, *What's Up* June 2020). The author says she learnt a lot by listening hard to people of other races (or ethnicities). Use these guidelines to do the same. The first step towards growing racial and religious harmony is to have genuine, respectful conversation with those who are different from us in one way or another.

1. Get into groups of three or four. As far as possible, try to make sure there is a mix of ethnicities in your group. Before you begin, assure each other that you will follow these do's and don'ts:

Do:	Don't:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Listen respectfully to your classmates' stories and opinions. ✓ Be humble. Recognise that other people's experiences might be different from your own. ✓ Be willing to admit that you might have done or said something wrong in the past, and commit to learning from your mistakes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Dismiss or deny your friends' feelings or stories, just because you have not experienced anything like it before. ✗ Call someone "sensitive" because they felt sad or angry. Try to understand why the situation might be upsetting.

2. Within your group, ask whether any member has received or given the types of "insulting compliments" described in the *What's Up* article.

- Share your experience with your friends.
- Choose one of these compliments to discuss further. Write down the insulting "compliment" here:

- Take a closer look at the remark. Which part of the remark sounds wrong, or troubling? Circle or highlight those words.
- By using those words, what is the speaker really saying about the person on the receiving end?
- What is one harmful stereotype hidden in the speaker's comment?
- Why are these stereotypes unfair and untrue? Explain.

3. **Let's right the wrong.** How would you change what was said, so that it becomes a real compliment? Rewrite it here:
