Pronoun 101
Supporting Transgender & Gender Diverse People at PCC

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Why Pronouns?

Why Practice?
**Pronoun Best Practices**

1. **Write Your Specific Pronouns:** Other people (and non-binary, named/expression people) may use a mix of pronouns. It’s important to respect how people use these pronouns, even if you feel uncomfortable or confused by them. If someone uses a pronoun differently than you are used to, be open to learning and acknowledging that person’s pronouns.

2. **Always Ask:** Always ask people how they want to be referred to and referred to in writing. It’s important to respect people’s desires and preferences. It’s also important to be mindfully inclusive and respectful of other people’s pronouns.

3. **Use Their Pronouns:** If you don’t remember, use their pronouns. This is not a test of your memory. It’s important to respect people’s identities and pronouns.

4. **Switch It Up:** Some people may have more than one set of pronouns. For example, “They/them” and “She/her.” Make sure to use both sets to reflect their identities, as long as they are used comfortably.

5. **Apologies & Mistakes:** When you make mistakes, especially with pronouns, it’s important to apologize. It’s important to acknowledge that you made a mistake. The best thing you can do is apologize. After that, correct your mistake. A tactful apology shows that you are acknowledging your mistake and making a conscious effort to learn and improve.

6. **Practice:** Some people’s pronouns may vary over time. For example, they might use different pronouns when referring to a specific person or a specific animal. It’s important to continue learning and improving your skills in the ongoing effort to be respectful and inclusive.
Lets Practice!

Mad Libs: Is a game/activity from the U.S. where players fill in missing words to complete a story.

Today we will practice using correct pronouns by completing mad libs.

Directions:
• Pair up! Introduce yourself using your pronouns (“Hi, I’m J! I use they/them/theirs pronouns.”)
• Fill in the story with the missing words
  – They
  – Them
  – Their
• Take turns reading your story aloud
Next Steps & Resources

- Add your pronouns to your email signature
- Add notes to the contacts in your phone
- Be intentional & slow down

- Share the worksheet
- Check out the Faculty & Staff Pronoun resources page:
  - pcc.edu/queer/district-efforts/faculty-resources/
- Contact your local QRC Coordinator for more support