



B.4.2. Inclusive teaching

Scenario 2 - Mathematics Lecture

Reading time: 5 minutes

Professor W., a mathematics professor, is giving a lecture on calculus applications to a class of diverse students.

Professor W. "Alright, gentlemen, let's dive into this next problem on differential equations. This one will really make you think!" (Some students look around uncomfortably, and a few female students exchange glances.)

Professor W. doesn't notice the reaction and continues with the lecture.

Professor W: "Now, I want each of you gentlemen to try solving this on your own before we discuss it as a group."

(A few students appear hesitant, with one female student, Sarah, briefly raising her hand but then putting it down, feeling unsure if she's being addressed. The professor continues speaking without noticing).

After Class Discussion: A teaching assistant who observed the class gently brings it up to Professor W later:

Teaching Assistant: "Professor W., I noticed you referred to the class as 'gentlemen' a couple of times. Some of the students, especially the women, might have felt a bit excluded by that."

Professor W (Surprised): "Oh! I hadn't even realised I was saying that... I see how that could feel excluding. I'll make an effort to be more mindful and inclusive with my language from now on."

