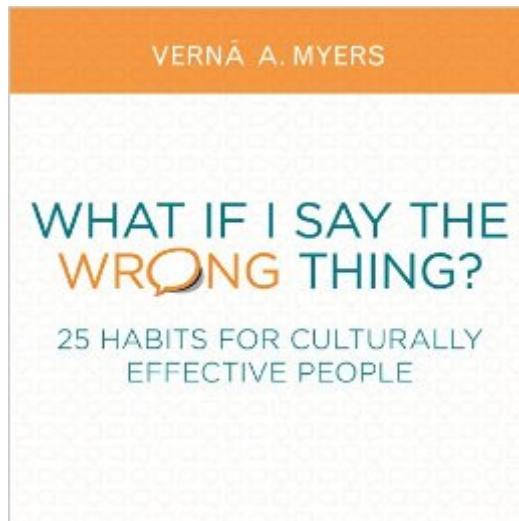


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# What If I Say The Wrong Thing?: 25 Habits For Culturally Effective People



## **Synopsis**

In this compelling new tip book you'll find innovative and surprising ways to keep your personal diversity journey moving and the diversity commitment of your organization. Written to make this information bite-size and accessible, you'll find quick answers to typical What should I do? questions, like: What if I say the wrong thing, what should I do? What if I am work and someone makes a sexist joke, what should I say? Purchase copies for everyone at your organization to make sure everyone knows the culturally effective way to approach diversity situations. With this book they can be prepared and practiced at moving diversity forward!

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 125 pages

Publisher: American Bar Association; 1 edition (April 7, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1614389713

ISBN-13: 978-1614389712

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 0.4 x 6.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (19 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #179,818 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 inÂ Books > Law > Constitutional Law > Discrimination #68 inÂ Books > Law > Legal Education > Legal Profession #186 inÂ Books > Law > Law Practice

## **Customer Reviews**

Purchased this book after attending a book talk with the author at a local community group with Blacks and Jews. After reading the book I found myself reevaluating how I interact with people from other cultures. The author is exceptionally good at telling stories that help you see life from other people's perspectives. This book can be appreciated by people of all ages, I think it should be apart of every high school's curriculum. After reading this book I have become aware of the things I say and have incorporated the 25 habits talked about in the book into my daily interactions. I recommend this book to all.

I have read this book twice and I always find new ideas to help me in my search to live more consciously. Now that I am retired and have more free time I have set out re-educate myself. My main concerns are why do we have such a difficult time understanding and loving one another. I

wanted to have a solid framework to talk with others of different religions and races and see if we could have common ground for open, respectful conversations. I want to really listen and understand others and this book helped me with that goal. Verna Myers wants us to explore our biases so we can live more fully and lovingly in this world and she does this brilliantly.

Might help you forgive yourself for the stupid things you have said to minority people in the past. Gives concrete examples of what to say and what not to say. This is perhaps the most useful book I have seen to help white advocates change our behavior in concrete and helpful ways.

I saw Verna present recently at a conference for my professional society, and received this book on 25 Habits for being culturally effective there. I read the entire book in one go on my flight home, and found myself nodding in agreement as well as noticing immediately where I can improve as I read through it. As a female research scientist, and minority in my field, I resonated so much with the message of this book. Although some of the points raised in this book were familiar to me (e.g. the cumulative weight of micro-inequities, the lack of diverse role models for minorities to look up to, the feeling of not being fully included), they were presented in a refreshing, humble, and humorous way. Verna openly admits the challenge (even her own challenge!) of saying and doing the right things in moments where inequities are surfaced. She makes it clear that this dialogue is not about feeling ashamed of your privileges in life, but is about acknowledging those privileges and choosing to advocate for an inclusive culture. I highly recommend this book for its practical examples of how each of us can contribute to creating an inclusive culture at work and in our society. This is a must read for anyone who wants to transition, as Verna puts it, from simply well-meaning to well-doing.

A quick read and worth every minute. Verna has some easy and enlightening tips to help us all out. I have heard her speak and her voice comes through her writing. We are all human, we all make mistakes, this is a great book for helping us get over them.

I am a practicing employment lawyer and I needed to do a very difficult training for the senior folks at a company where the women in middle management (the future leaders) did not see a path to success. Verna Myers' book was extremely helpful in setting the stage to have this discussion with a mostly white male senior management group. I did not want to put the senior managers on the defensive, but also wanted to have them understand that they have had a "tail wind" through life compared to some of the "one down" folks. The title to this book is spot on because conversations

about race and gender can be hard to have and this book taught me that it is inevitable that you will say something that offends someone, but that should not deter us from having the conversations. You simply name it, you own it and you move on. My favorite story in the book is "I hope she can drive" as it clearly and humorously explains the types of hidden biases we all have. Bravo to Verna.

Verna Myers takes key points and tips from her awesome book, *Moving Diversity Forward: How To Go From Well-Meaning to Well-Doing*, and condenses them into a concise, informative, insightful and entertaining pocket guide. Using personal stories, business examples, and psychology research, she addresses all the diversity challenges that can arise in the workplace, around the family table, or even in the supermarket. Myers offers cogent analyses of how racism and prejudice influence all of us, and offers positive and practical suggestions for being effective in our culturally diverse world. I bought 10 copies to give to colleagues and clients, and I'm sure I'll order more.

I have been a diversity practitioner in the legal profession for a number of years and have read numerous books and articles on the topic. I highly recommend this book without reserve as it is a great companion piece to Verna's first book, "*Moving Diversity Forward*." It provides very practical, concrete suggestions for developing cultural competence in today's workplace as well as other environments. I have used the book as a training tool for my firm's partners/shareholders and will also be utilizing it in training of all the office administrators in the firm's network. Additionally, I also chair the diversity committee of a private, independent single sex high school in my city. The school's administration has purchased copy of this book for all board members. It will also be the basis of a training for all the school's faculty and staff. I can not speak more highly about this book.MPW

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