

# ACCENTuate the Positive

Perception of Accent and Authority among Classroom Instructors at Queen's University

Let's move forward!

While some believed it was the responsibility of the speaker to change their accent...accent is not a switch that can be turned on and off.

Other participants understood accent as a strength of the queen's community.

What can we do?

Listening is a fundamental part of communicating with others.

Listeners:

- Stay Positive: Approach interactions with accented people as an opportunity.
- Gain Exposure: It helps to increase familiarity, comfort and understanding.
- Make Time: Allow sufficient time for conversations to minimize frustration.
- Be Patient: An open mind puts both listeners and speakers at ease.
- Ask for clarification.

Educators:

*"Educate our students, especially undergraduate, during orientation week. They need to recognize that laughing at one's accent or underestimate one's credibility due to accent is inappropriate." Survey Participant*

*"Queen's should ensure a greater diversity of instructors and foster a culture of celebration of this richness." Survey Participant*

Diversity enriches our community. Inclusion strengthens our campus.