



Us and Them: Words describing Death and Dying

Dying to Know Day
8 August 2016





‘3 Words’ to Describe Death and Dying: From Dying2Learn to Dying to Know Day

CareSearch has just hosted its first MOOC, or massive open online course. The purpose of the Dying2Learn MOOC was to build community awareness and foster social discussion about death and dying in Australia.

MOOC participants were asked to describe death and dying.

- First, participants listed the 3 words that best describe how *they personally* feel about death and dying.
- Second, participants listed the 3 words that they think best describe how *OTHERS* in the general public feel about death and dying.

Wordles, or word clouds, show what participants described as their feelings about death and dying and what participants believed others felt about death and dying. Larger words indicate more commonly-mentioned words.



Why are they different?

The results show a striking contrast between words that Dying2Learn MOOC participants used to describe their feelings around death and dying, and the words they believed described how others in the general public feel about it.

Why is there such a difference in perception? Are MOOC participants more accepting and comfortable with talking about death and dying? Or is the whole community more comfortable with death and dying than the MOOC participants thought?

Dying to Know Day is trying to promote community awareness and engagement with death and dying. They highlight the importance of [death literacy](#).



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