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# Free Speech and Political Correctness

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Segment Length: 4:43 minutes; 7:23 minutes

## **Videos:**

“Is PC Culture Anti-Free Speech?”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3SLzWi3wQU>

“(2017 DVD) Threats To Free Speech – Censorship on Campus”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icPIB1Lbqr8>

## **Guide:**

The questions below will help students achieve a better understanding of the arguments made on either side of a contentious topic. Because these questions often touch upon statements made briefly in the videos, we recommend reading the questions before watching each video.

Students are encouraged to take notes during the videos, and it may be helpful for students to break into groups, each taking responsibility for only a few questions, before coming together for discussion.

## **Analysis Questions:**

1. In the first video Francesca Ramsey says political correctness is just treating people with respect. How does John Stossel seem to define political correctness?
2. Francesca Ramsey says freedom of speech means the government cannot prohibit one from expression, and John Stossel says political correctness on some college campuses is causing ideas to be silenced. What do universities have to do with a proscription on government action?
3. Jeremy Mayer points out that young people are passionate about the ideas they learn in the college classroom and maintains that the heckler’s veto is uncommon. How could political correctness be responsible for the heckler’s veto?
4. Francesca Ramsey contends that political correctness is actually expanding free speech. What’s her argument?
5. Jeremy Mayer holds that the media exaggerate anti-speech behavior on college campuses. How might Kirsten Powers respond?
6. John Stossel reports on college safe spaces but does not argue that their existence threatens free expression on campuses. What, then, do safe spaces have to do with political correctness?

7. If universities provide free speech zones, then why are some people like John Stossel upset about political correctness at American colleges? Can't everyone have a voice in these zones?
8. Franchesca Ramsey relates political correctness to disadvantage and privilege. What's the connection she describes?
9. What connection is there between John Stossel's description of political correctness and Franchesca Ramsey's explanation of accusations of political correctness?
10. What does the concept of hate speech have to do with political correctness?