

# Political Correctness

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Surrounded by a group of people, I was presented with a definition of the phrase *Political Correctness* that I believe, while there is an element of truth to that definition, it does not capture the full meaning of the expression. The definition the group proposed was “speech that doesn’t offend anyone”. An alternate definition that I am proposing is “speech that, believed or not by the speaker, best promotes one’s political career”. In this article I will examine each definition in an effort to understand the full meaning of the phrase.

Clearly both definitions describe speech. First, the usual term for “speech that doesn’t offend anyone” already has a name. It’s called “polite”. Why do we need another term for the same thing?

In the phrase *Political Correctness*, we see the word “political”. How does that relate to “speech that doesn’t offend anyone”? Surely being polite doesn’t require running for political office. And what about the word “correctness”? It doesn’t mean *polite*. But if you are trying to promote your career, certainly there are correct and incorrect things one may say.

Interestingly, in neither their definition nor mine, there is no requirement for the speech to be true or for the speaker to believe what they say, although my definition makes that clear.

Saying that the rich are greedy and the cause of most of our economic and social ills is something clearly insulting to the rich yet, in the name of Political Correctness, is free speech to most news outlets, movies, music, and the liberal minded. They promote the greedy rich message without restraint. How is that polite? On the other hand, it certainly helps sales of their media, their careers, and their political positions. No one makes money or political position insulting the masses – even if it is the fault of the masses. We will blame the schools, the teachers, and the books, but no one will suggest it’s the parents or their culture because that’s bad for votes – you know, not politically correct.

In 2012 Mitt Romney made a statement (the 47%) that was statistically true but politically incorrect significantly contributing to his loss of the presidency that year. Political correctness is clearly more important than truth.

We pride ourselves on our free speech and our melting pot of opinions but we regularly ruin peoples lives, careers, and life’s savings in the name of political correctness. Think about this; what do people in North Korea say about Kim Jong-un? I bet it’s not Politically Correct to say anything bad about him. What would the penalty be there if one spoke politically incorrect? Except for executions, we aren’t much different. Speak politically incorrectly and we’ll ruin you.

England used to have a king. Speaking against the king – politically incorrectly – would lead to pain of all sorts. We left England to start a new country that allowed free speech and differences of opinion. We are fast becoming little different than old-time England, or current North Korea, China, Russia, and many more. Say something politically incorrect and we’ll ruin you! I thought we were different.