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### **Polsc 240 Journal 2: Question 6**

One of the hardest parts of living in a society is learning to respect one another. I tend to think this would be a simple task since all you have to do is not be an ass. But, it seems that respect is far more complicated. This becomes especially true when it comes to offensive words and actions. Personally, I can't imagine why someone would think being purposefully offensive is ok. I can only imagine that people act in this way simply because they can. This forces us to wonder if offensive words and actions should be banned. My instincts would tell me to just ban offensive actions. However, multiple problems arise when it comes to enforcing a ban on offensiveness. For one, who decides what's offensive. I would rule offensiveness as discriminatory words or actions used with malice against minorities. But, others may argue offensiveness as not following the norms of the majority. The next problem that arises is punishment. How severely should we punish those being maliciously offensive? Would the punishment be different based on their influence in society? Finally, we have to wonder if a ban would infringe on free speech. What even is free speech? I view free speech as being different from malicious hate speech but I know that's not a popular view. So how is this problem solved?

I think the core of this debate comes down to intent and power. First, I think we should define offensiveness as being offensive with malicious intent. I think this should apply to all groups, but offensiveness against minorities should be considered more serious. Next, I think we should define punishment based on power. If the powerful—such as police, politicians, business leaders, and organization leaders—choose to act maliciously offensive, then the punishment should be amplified. It should also be amplified if hate is being purposefully spread to

indoctrinate. Finally, I stand my opinion that free speech should not apply to hate speech. It's plain and simple, you shouldn't be protected if you're purposefully hurting others.