

FREE SPEECH vs. HATE SPEECH

Criticising a country's actions is not in itself antisemitic if the concern is based on political decisions or actions. However, it can cross the line to becoming antisemitic if it:

Transfers that criticism onto people just because they are Jewish, with no allowance for diversity of opinion

Incites violence or ridicule towards Jewish people based on their religion or ethnicity

Allows free speech only for those who agree with you

Does not allow Jewish people the same rights you allow or take for granted for other groups

Makes Jewish people feel frightened, anxious or unrepresented

Ignores the Jewish experience as being insignificant

Uses, misuses, or misappropriates terminology to affect Jewish people negatively

Uses hate symbols such as the swastika to make emotional statements, provoke fear or intimidate people, or use Jewish symbols such as using the Star of David in a derogatory way

Diminishes the right of Jewish people to openly express their cultural identity

Calls for actions that are harmful, intimidating or threatening to Jewish people

Promotes the elimination of Israel's right to exist as a sovereign nation

Utilises stereotyping and/or historical tropes as a method of propaganda

What's in a Response?

a) Create a 'fairness test' to apply to incidents of using words and symbols inappropriately.
Hint: set a goal first – what are you looking to achieve by this test?

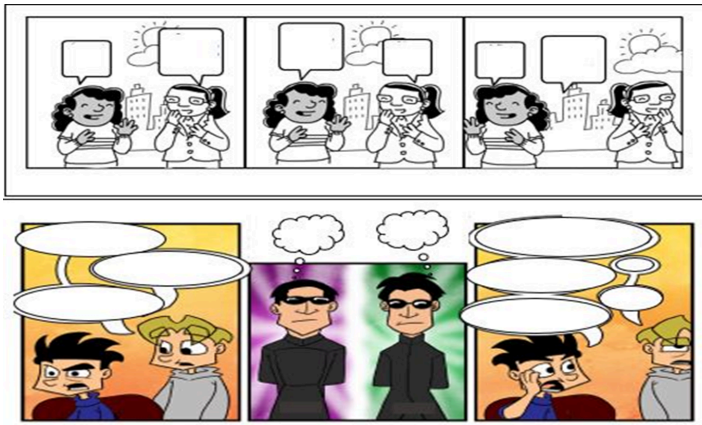
b) Watch the Josh Frydenberg documentary and discuss when free speech crosses the line into hatred for hatred's sake and/or antisemitic attitudes and behaviour.



Never Again: The Fight Against Antisemitism - Josh Frydenberg

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCEd4vPsuC0&t=1s>

c) Think about creating a situation involving one of the above scenarios, based on how you might realistically approach it, and what responses you might receive from the person/people involved. Then fill in the speech bubbles in one of the comic strips below (or create your own). Remember, in any situation, only proceed if you are confident it is safe to do so.



Comic strips example.

d) Reporting - There are places you can report antisemitic incidents or seek help and advice.



Antisemitic incident report - NSW Jewish Board of Deputies

<https://nswjbd.org.au/antisemitic-incident-report/>

