Who gets to determine whether the hurt and offense I feel is valid? People at Macalester would never use words like this, we’re smarter and better than that. These words are so pervasive; I feel like I have to ignore how I feel in order to fit in with everyone else. It’s awkward trying to confront a friend or family member about offensive language. I can’t believe there are people who are ignorant enough to still be saying things like this. People use these words all the time without thinking about what they may mean to people from a different background. Language like this is unacceptable and I will never condone or understand it.

I hate always having to be “that” person who talks about oppression. I still struggle with trying not to use some of these words, especially around my friends. The language that people use lets me know who I can and can’t trust.

There are bigger concerns and issues that we need to talk about than this. I don’t want to be judged for using language that others deem to be “bad.” Nobody uses this word anymore. How can words that almost everyone uses on a daily basis hurt other people? Nobody can tell me what I can and can’t say. This issue isn’t black and white, words have different contexts.

That’s not what I mean, you know. I’m just joking. If someone takes offense to these words, that is their problem not mine. People already know not to use this word, why bring it up again?

Should I censor myself from saying every word that can possibly offend someone? I don’t want to admit what I don’t know so I don’t look stupid or bigoted. I’m not a bad person just because I use these words and phrases.

This isn’t a real problem. There are bigger concerns and issues that we need to talk about than this. I don’t want to be judged for using language that others deem to be “bad.”

More than Words Campaign

www.macalester.edu/morethanwords