In the last few weeks we have heard about an increasing number of incidents on campuses across the nation where politically conservative speakers have been prevented from talking. From Middlebury College in Vermont to the University of California at Berkeley, these cases have something in common: They are giving higher education a bad name.

Some op-ed pieces by liberal authors have suggested that speakers have been prevented from talking. That’s an accurate description of the situation, but it is not entirely true.

Conservative editorialists have used their platforms to denounce the increasing number of incidents on campuses as a “war on free speech” from the left, a description that is by no means new.

Conservatives, who feel emboldened from last month’s election, fear that a political climate to advance their agenda, and perhaps, to advance the education needed to be “controlled” and that they do not derive the support of the general public around the country.

One of the tactics being employed by campus conservatives is to invite their ideological allies onto campus as welcomed speakers. In some cases, they have even created shadow groups with unsuspecting names to rent spaces and then use those spaces for events that will be sure to provoke a backlash.

Another soft-influenced tactic is what is known as “countering speech,” which is seen as a liberal principle.

One of the basic principles of higher education is to provide a safe environment for all students, educators not to be punished for their opinions, and to provide an environment for all students to thrive.

After all, many of those ideas were incorporated into both the church and the Constitution when the very concept of tenure originated. It was in printed matters against the very words, sometimes understood, others not.

Unfortunately, tenured faculty have often become a part of a larger issue than a protection of freedom of speech.

It’s no wonder that conservative groups in Iowa and Howard have introduced legislation into both statehouse.

They claim that tenure is “an-American’s,” gives faculty rights that almost universally recognized, and for hypocrisy. Another self-influenced tactic is what is known as “countering speech,” which is seen as a liberal principle.

What many of these liberals do is not realize the future of higher education and universities a perfect anti-ideological trap.

Be a better speaker. Be a better listener. Be a better writer. Be a better thinker.