

Genre: Joke

Joe Teghtmyer, age 20

"Student, Fraternity Brother"

"Pollock Joke"

There was this Pollock and this American who just escaped from prison. They were running away when they came upon a lake. So the American jumps in and swims to the other side. Then the Pollock yells over to the American and says, "come back and get me." The American says no I'll tell you what, I'll shine this flashlight across to you and you walk across on the beam. Then the Pollock says, what do you think I'm stupid. I know that when I get halfway across you'll shut the light off.

This is classified as a joke because it has a popular plot to it and has a funny punch line or ending. This joke also makes fun of or discriminates against Polish people. According to Professor Dolby-Stahl she stated in lecture on Sept. 11, 1984, that an item such as this would be classified as a joke.

The typical context for a joke like this would be just about anywhere. A person could tell this joke anywhere he felt comfortable telling it. However since it is a racial joke he may want to reframe from telling it in the presence of Polish people. The actual context was in the cafeteria of the library. There was no one in the immediate area.

Joe said he enjoys telling the joke to friends. He said almost everyone thinks its funny. He also said that the joke is kind of offensive to Pollish people and that he would not think of telling it to anyone who was Pollish.

I think the joke was make up all in fun. Who ever make up the joke probably just needed a particular race or type of person to use as the subject. The traditional person or race of people to pick on is the Pollish society. I don't think it was made up to offend the Pollish people.