denigrate /ˈdenəˈgreɪt/ verb

(formal) to criticize sb/sth unfairly; to say sb/sth does not have any value or is not important

***Emerson and Dutton discuss the week's events:***

**Tony Abbott is some sort of shrinking violet, he's just a lovely man, and he spent two years vilifying and denigrating the Prime Minister**

***Smear tactics hit local polls:***

**"I find it hard to believe anyone would denigrate another by using race - just to win an election", he said in a press release.**