



ANISH VERMA
Political Science & Economics

WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL DISCOURSE AND FREE SPEECH?

When the Indian American five year old child asks his father why the tenant is mocking him for his accent, it only then occurs to us the importance of free speech. If not for anything else, but for the children who experience discrimination free speech is so important.

The issues of today's day and age need to be solved but this only happens when the issue of racism at its core is solved. As people voice their opinions, share their stories, and convince the public, more people become aware of different problems in this world. This change is only made when people are aware of these issues. Take for example journalists, with the stories that these journalists publish people become aware of the issues. As much as the government would love to fix climate change, they cannot do it by themselves. The people are needed to help be more sustainable. When news stories

or journalists propose different solutions for citizens to hear, that is when change is actually made. Not only is free speech important to share the issues we know of but also the issues we don't.

When someone calls out the government for their corruption within a certain agency, change starts to be made. Without the public knowing this issue and someone using their right of free speech to create change, this issue would not have been solved otherwise. Thus, free speech is important to not only share solutions to existing problems but to also share problems that the public is unaware of. If not for any other purpose, free speech is a means for this father to be able to tell his child that the issue is no more. This father's story is only spread when free speech is available to all.