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### WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL DISCOURSE AND FREE SPEECH?

The importance of civil discourse and free speech is that we need it in order to live as people. The way that people have differing opinions and views is part of being human. Being able to have civil discourse and argue is how society can grow and learn. Without being able to share our opinions, there would be nothing worth talking about. Every single person on this Earth is different and without differing opinions, there is no point of individuality. The ability to stand up and speak your mind is the most powerful tool that anyone can have.

Free speech is how people can start movements and protest what they believe is wrong. The civil discourse that follows is what challenges the ideas of society today. The movements that fight for equality and equity would never happen if free speech was not allowed. These discourses are the reason for all of the social change that is happening today. The civil discourse is what allows us to think and if we cannot think, what is the point of us being called the word "human." Society has always

had its groups of thinkers and leaders and the thing that they all had in common was that they had the courage to stand up and say something. Without people saying what is on their mind and what they believe, society will be at a standstill and there not be any advancements in any of the benefits of society.

Every time that someone gives a speech, they have the power to change people's mind. No matter who the audience consists of, there will always be someone that your point of view can reach. This is a huge responsibility, and you have to be ethical and honest with what you say; otherwise it causes evil in the form of misinformation. When misinformation spreads, it can cause many hardships and can be the cause of evils that seem "justified" in society. If a person chooses to take on this responsibility, they have my immense respect. The importance of civil discourse and free speech is not only the impact that it has on society; it is the impact that it has on the human race as a whole.