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WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL DISCOURSE AND FREE SPEECH?

When humans are little babies, we have this desire to talk. We see and hear those around us partaking in this action that we have not fully grasped yet. And despite our lack of understanding, we still strive to speak as we babble and make silly noises to try our best to make words. Speech and the ability to voice our opinions has always been important to humans. Without free speech our country would be completely different. The use of civil discourse, in my opinion, is one of the reasons our technology and society has been advancing at a rapid rate these past few decades. Our ability to communicate our ideas, discuss what could work and what might not, and ability to collaborate, helped strengthen and advance our world. I am majoring in a science related major, and it means a lot to me to be able to agree or disagree with some of the controversial topics in our society, to be able to state my own thoughts without the fear of repercussions, and to be able to guide my own thoughts instead of them being controlled by someone. Being able to freely voice our opinions, being able to discuss what we truly believe and think, creates a society that is conversational, more connected, and one that can

make mistakes, discuss what went wrong, and correct their ways to enhance society even further. Without free speech and civil discourse, we would be locked inside of our own minds, unable to completely express ourselves. Imagination would be confined to the thoughts of one leader or one group of people. We wouldn't be able to influence the society we live in, but instead, we would be controlled. Our thoughts would not be our own, but rather the thoughts of the world. The world would become a bland, gray place void of beauty and creativity. Even though our ability of free speech creates arguments and sometimes conflict, it truly creates an environment that is constantly changing its mold and is draped in human curiosity and creativity. My voice, my opinions, my thoughts matter, and that is what makes free speech and civil discourse incredibly important to me. I am just one small person, yet what I have to say matters, and what I have to say can impact the world around me. Free speech is a powerful tool that can be used in uplifting ways, but it can also be used in destructive ways. We need to recognize the importance of this power we hold and use it to make the world around us a better place.