



**GENNIE OBAID**  
Accounting

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

It is human nature to communicate and engage with civilization, it is here that change in the world can begin. In today's day and age, we live in a very polarized society, where people are less open to hear the opposing opinion. There is no issue with having individualized understanding of various topics, however how is growth of the brain meant to occur if people don't allow themselves to listen to perspectives that differ from their own. Civil discourse is the perfect pathway to allow people to learn and apply their new knowledge to the world around them, it provides a safe space for open minded conversations that leads to physical transitions if done properly. The vitality stems from the opportunity to reform prior beliefs because if someone is concerned about a specific industry or method of thinking and is able to provide credible information to back their claim they can convince the audience that feasible solutions are underway. The power of intellectual conversation is immeasurable. Communication is what provides humanity with the ability to notice differences in ways of thinking and motivates others to challenge the way they view the world. Additionally, it brings people from different walks of life together and creates a community that would have never existed without discourse. Obviously, in order for people to engage in civil discourse correctly there must be a mutual respect for one another, if respect isn't present in the conversation then nothing of importance will be accomplished. This generation enjoys spewing opinion with intentions to divide demographics rather than bringing them together. Civil discourse combats this in the most efficient way possible, due to the

fact that both sides of the argument are represented. More than representation, there is no bias to dilute the credibility of the conversation. Our society prioritizes trustworthiness when it comes to intellectual information, so as we evolve our conversations rely on said credibility. Which is why it boils down to a combination of empathy and education, although anecdotal evidence can help when trying to connect hearts it leaves room for too much interpretation. Although emotion is vital in any good conversation, it has time and time again caused unnecessary and harmful riots. A perfect example of this is the entirety of Trump's presidency. His bigotry throughout his four years, gave room for others like him to shovel hate speech into our country. Not once did he try to unify this country, perhaps he had a divide and conquer ideology when it came to leading this nation. However, if he effectively utilized civil discourse perhaps this country would be in a very different place. But alas that wasn't the case, instead it is up to us to use skills of communication to prepare for the next era of democracy and the way we go about conflict. This in its essence is why civil discourse is vital for proper reform. Through reformation, our country will prosper into a civilization of enlightened individuals seeking global humanity in this world. In order to get there, it starts with simple conversations. The beauty of it all, is that it doesn't cost a dime, there are no economic downfalls to speaking with people who want to listen. Thankfully, as the days go by more and more people are willing to hear each other out. Slowly but surely.