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WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL DISCOURSE AND FREE SPEECH?

Civil discourse is a crucial element to all democracy. It allows the free expression of individuals on opposite sides of a subject, while still maintaining mutual respect amongst one another. I would argue that civil discourse is the most important element in our society for many reasons.

For starters, civil discourse is what truly allows our society to freely express our views on the issues that affect us the most and in return, this allows individuals to get educated on both sides of a topic. For instance, an individual can argue that cutting taxes across the board will allow for the citizens of a country to maintain more money in their possession. This money that is given to the people and not the government will then be circulated throughout the economy, boosting small businesses and allowing for growth and prosperity. While on the other side of this argument it can be argued that a tax reduction will increase wealth inequality within society. Education and social programs may also be underfunded and in doing so the strongest tool for social class mobility (education) may be unattainable for lower income families.

If civil discourse was not allowed and this was the only insight anyone had into the topic of taxation in the United States, then no one would be opposed to it or could get educated on the topic enough to make their own decision on what they truly believe.

Moreover, civil discourse is a reminder that oppression and censorship is not tolerated in a truly free society. I can personally speak to this as I am an immigrant from a developing nation that seeks to censor and oppress reports that shine light on corruption of the government. I value the liberty and freedom that, we all as citizens, of the world have to form our own opinions on topics that impact all of us the most. Without civil discourse, the oppression of media and studies would prohibit the complete and whole education of people regardless of where they sit on a political, social, or financial spectrum.

In addition, civil discourse is a reminder that we can all have varying views on political ideologies, economic studies, or religious beliefs; yet still exemplify the pillars of respect and open mindedness to those whose opinions and insights differ from our own. I live in a household with a Republican Father, a Democratic Mother and I am a Moderate individual. I mention this because it is crucial to not shy away from sources of differing views than your own, but to rather listen and be equally informed on both sides.

In summary, I believe that civil discourse is the most crucial aspect of any democratic society. Whether it be the educational benefits that derive from civil discourse, the way it shuts down oppression and censorship, or how it allows for a disagreement between two sides to be met with respect and open mindedness, civil discourse is an essential part of any free and functioning society.