



**WILLIAM FORTE**  
Communication

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

It took the founding fathers months to debate, write, and ratify the constitution of the United States. It would have taken only days if they had listened to the loudest voice in the room and I would be hard-pressed to find a reason why it would be better. It is civil discourse and free speech that allows philosophies, ideas, and policies to grow and advance. The revolutionary thoughts put forth by thinkers like Plato, Descartes, Locke, Kant, and many more were only allowed and adopted because they had the ability to speak freely and prove their ideas against scrutiny. As human beings capable of rationality and free thought, it is crucially important that we maintain our abilities through civil discourse. Likewise, in order to have civil discourse, we need the right to free speech. One cannot exist without the other.

The ability to talk freely goes beyond the fundamental rights given to us by the constitution of the United States. It is a force of nature that should never be

restricted even remotely. My reasoning is the fact that humans are capable to think for themselves. Even the least intelligent person on the planet has some sort of unique thought and independent reasoning. Far too often in the news we read about outraged mobs on both sides of the political spectrum that do not care for what is true and have fallen into the enraged hivemind. These are the people that benefit from their right to free speech greatly but rarely execute their natural call for civil discourse. They never see their anger as irrational, but they also have never thought about if what they are doing is correct. By the standard that I have put forth, these people's mere existence should be proof that freedom of speech and civil discourse are essential aspects of the human condition.