

Engaging Students with News

Session #1: Civil Discourse



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Why is Star Tribune doing this?

- » For the past year, we have been reimagining our News in Education program
- » Heard loud and clear: easy, one-click access
- » Two new focuses:
 1. **100%** digital access, **100%** of Minnesota students, **100%** free
 2. Be an engaging resource for Minnesota teachers

Session #1: Civil Discourse

- » Engaging with Star Tribune
- » Civil Discourse
- » Top tips for having civil discourse in the classroom
- » Finding a point-of-view

Engaging with Star Tribune

Reporting

CORONAVIRUS

Sports cause outbreaks. Restart sports anyway?

Risks are real as fate of football, volleyball hangs in balance

By Paul Klauda Star Tribune | SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 — 11:49AM

NATIONAL

AP Explains: What's next with the Supreme Court vacancy?

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and LISA MASCARO Associated Press |

SEPTEMBER 24, 2020 — 8:40AM

MINNEAPOLIS

When it comes to reopening 38th and Chicago, Minneapolis city leaders and community members find themselves at an 'impasse'

The people who occupy the space say the city needs to agree on their calls for this struggling area, for George Floyd and other victims of police violence.

By Miguel Otárola Star Tribune | SEPTEMBER 5, 2020 — 7:45PM

Opinion

OPINION EXCHANGE

If we wait any longer to take climate change seriously, it will be too late

SEPTEMBER 18, 2020 — 6:05PM



LORI STURDEVANT
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OPINION EXCHANGE

Stop blaming students for COVID-19 surges

Colleges need to take responsibility for the increase in cases.

By Natasha Stark and Rachael Mills | SEPTEMBER 18, 2020 — 6:01PM

STEVE SACK

Sack cartoon: 2020 summer tour

AUGUST 29, 2020 — 6:00PM



People will always have differing opinions...

OPINION EXCHANGE

To reform the Supreme Court judiciously, try term limits

Our current imbalance is not what our founders imagined.

By **Tyler Cooper** InsideSources.com (TNS) | OCTOBER 19, 2020 — 5:52PM



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE • ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Supreme Court is seen in Washington, Wednesday morning, Oct. 7.

Civil Discourse: A life skill for our communities' future leaders

- » Civil Discourse: Engagement in a conversation intended to *enhance understanding*.
- » *Civil*:
 1. Curious and polite.
 2. Relating to ordinary citizens and their concerns.
- » Setting boundaries and expectations for how to have a civil discourse is important – particularly online.

Top Tips – Civil Discourse

CORONAVIRUS

Restarting Minnesota prep football, volleyball seasons full of challenges

Many issues need to be settled to resume play.

By David La Vaque and Jim Paulsen Star Tribune | SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 — 12:37AM



ALEX KORMANN • ALEX.KORMANN@STARTRIBUNE.CO

Duluth Denfeld coach Erik Lofald talked to his team on Aug. 4 after the Minnesota State High School League voted to delay football until spring.

Civil Discourse Top Tips

1. It's not about having a debate; it's about sharing differing points of view to increase overall understanding

#1: It's not about having a debate; it's about sharing differing points of view to increase overall understanding

- » To hear the other side of an issue isn't a threat to your perspective, it's the opposite: it strengthens it.

Student 1

Football and volleyball seasons should start up right away!

Student 2

Sports that can't social distance simply shouldn't be a priority during a health pandemic!

Civil Discourse Top Tips

1. It's not about having a debate; it's about sharing differing points of view to increase overall understanding
2. Listen actively and ask questions

#2: Listen actively and ask questions

- » Listen with the intent to learn; don't be thinking ahead to your next point
- » Asking questions is one of the most open-ended, non-leading ways to have an engaging conversation.

Student 1

“Students who play multiple sports gain life and social skills. If all the sports are in the spring and students have to choose, they will miss out on those skills.”

Student 2

“That’s an interesting point. Can you tell me more about that?”

Civil Discourse Top Tips

1. It's not about having a debate; it's about sharing differing points of view to increase overall understanding
2. Listen actively and ask questions
3. Address the ideas, don't attack the person

#3: Address the ideas, don't attack the person

- » Don't make it personal!
- » Avoid negative adjectives like “dumb,” “stupid,” or “irrelevant.”

Student 1

“Playing in front of fans is important. I think if we are able to mandate masks and social distance measures, a certain amount of fans could attend games.”

Student 2

“I understand your point about the importance of fans. However, I have concerns about that. I believe it would be difficult to ensure students follow the guidelines...”

Civil Discourse Top Tips

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4. Have empathy – lived experiences often shape beliefs

#4: Have empathy – lived experiences often shape beliefs

- » Recognizing that not everyone is seeing each scenario through the same filter is a powerful way to have a healthy, productive dialogue.

Student 1

- *Household puts a lot of importance on sports*
- *Good chance of getting a college scholarship for football or baseball*

Student 2

- *Parents work in the healthcare system*
- *Grandpa lives with them who is high risk to the virus*

Civil Discourse Top Tips

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2. Listen actively and ask questions
3. Address the ideas, don't attack the person
4. Have empathy – lived experiences often shape beliefs
5. Use “I” statements

#5: Use “I” statements

- » “I feel...” “I believe...” “What I understand is...” “From my point of view...”
- » It isn’t stating a position as fact, it’s expressing how you as an individual are reacting.

Student 1

“I feel that we can do enough to make football and volleyball this fall safe because...”

Student 2

“From my point of view, I believe the risks do not outweigh the rewards of pushing a fall start because...”

Civil Discourse Top Tips

1. It's not about having a debate; it's about sharing differing points of view to increase overall understanding
2. Listen actively and ask questions
3. Address the ideas, don't attack the person
4. Have empathy – lived experiences often shape beliefs
5. Use “I” statements – “I feel...” “From my point of view...” “I hear what you are saying...”
6. Agree to disagree

#6: Agree to disagree

- » At the end of the day, hopefully both sides learned something. And if they still disagree, that's okay.
- » Can still respect and live with the other person.

Student 1

"Hmmm... what can we do to think of more serious measures to take?"

Student 2

"Hmmm... how can we support students who had a great chance at a scholarship?"

Civil Discourse Top Tips

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6. Agree to disagree

Teachers are moderators

- » As teachers, you have a powerful opportunity to create a safe space for your students to practice these important skills.
- » You can also reference the points during discussions and use it as a way to moderate the discussions, keeping both civil and learning in-practice.

Engaging examples



Disagreeing Doesn't Make You Smart

711,342 views • Mar 1, 2019

27K 1K SHARE SAVE



Kid President How To Disagree

64,670 views • Apr 1, 2017

417 40 SHARE SAVE

Preparing for discussion: find your point-of-view

- » Articles can be read in class or shared beforehand to have a point-of-view already explored.
- » For POV, can use a worksheet with similar questions as below:
 - » What is the main point of this article?
 - » What is your reaction to the point of the article?
 - » Why is that your reaction? Please give three reasons (it's okay to look up more information)
 - » Create "I" statements

Thank you!