

TYLA CIVILITY *for All*

Civility for All – Elementary – Discussion Guide

Civility for All encourages students to be respectful, engaged, and civil members and leaders in their communities.

What is the definition of Civility? The act of showing regard for others by being polite and respectful. We all know that remaining civil is easy when conversations go in agreeance. But what about those situations when there are opposing viewpoints? Arguments? Even anger?

In the heat of the moment, one can find it to be an extremely daunting task to remain civil. So perhaps the better question on the subject is, “Why is it important to treat each other with civility?” That is the main purpose of Civility for All.

Targeted TEKS

- Elementary School Standards– TEKS 3.9(A), 3.16, 4.15(B), 4.15(C), 4.5(D), 4.21(B), 4.21(C), 4.22, 5.17(A), 5.17(B), 5.23(D), 5.25(C), 5.26

Discussion

- What does the word “civility” mean?
- Do you know what the “golden rule is?”
 - Treat others how you would like to be treated
- Is the golden rule a good example of civility?
- What are some characteristic traits of someone who acts civil?
 - respectful, kind, listening, empathetic, patient, friendly
- Give some examples of ways you have acted civil toward others.

- Who do you think you should act civil towards?
 - Parents
 - Siblings
 - Friends
 - Teachers
 - Everyone
 - People with whom you disagree

- Why is it important to treat others with civility?

- What are some benefits of being civil with others?
 - More efficient/productive
 - Empathy
 - Better relationships
 - Learn from others
 - Understand other people's thoughts/perspective

- What are some disadvantages of not being civil with others?
 - Not efficient
 - Anger
 - Treating others unkindly
 - Hurt people's feelings

- Is it hard to be civil to others when they don't agree with you? What about if you are mad at them? Why?

- How should you act if someone isn't acting civil towards you?

- What should you do if you see someone not acting civil towards another person?

- Who do you think should act with civility?

- Do you think that public leaders, such as the President of the United States, should act with civility?

- If so, why?

- Name some examples of leaders that you think of as civil.

- How are some ways you can help the leaders in your community be civil?
 - Politely reminding them the importance of being civil
 - Working together on projects in a civil manner
 - Educating yourself about public issues
 - Voting

Case Study/Activity

- John and Ben are playing dodgeball with their friends at school. John throws a ball at Ben and hits him in his face. Ben gets angry at John for hitting him in the face, but John says that it was an accident. Ben and John start yelling at each other and calling each other names.
 - Identify the problem in this scenario
 - What information can you gather?
 - List and consider different civil options
 - Consider advantages and disadvantages of each option
 - Choose and implement a solution
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of the chosen solution

- Sarah was sitting with her friends at lunch when they noticed the new girl, Anna, sitting by herself nearby. Sarah's friends started making fun of Anna's outfit and gossiping about her. Sarah could see that Anna could hear them talking about her, and it was making her upset.
 - Identify the problem in this scenario
 - What information can you gather?
 - List and consider different civil options
 - Consider advantages and disadvantages of each option
 - Choose and implement a solution
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of the chosen solution

