



Text, Talk, Revive Civility

Text Messaging Script

Audience: Middle and High School Students

Goal: To enhance civil discourse and listening skills in middle and high school students

Objectives

After participating in this activity, young people will be able to:

- Define civility
- Discuss how to disagree without being mean
- Listen to another person's perspective on an issue and repeat it back
- Explain why being able to listen for understanding can help them better interact with other's who think differently than they do
- Engage in a respectful exchange regarding why they disagree with another person on a given issue

SCRIPT

Form small groups of 4-5 people with one cell phone. TEXT: CIVILITY to 89800

1. Welcome to Text Talk Revive Civility!

Are you in middle or high school? If so, reply by texting SCHOOL. We have a special conversation just for you! Otherwise, reply by texting ADULT.

2. Let's talk about civility and respect, and how we can use these values to hold civil conversations with people who think differently.

Text R1 to continue

3. This conversation will take about an hour. Your group will receive a series of text messages that will guide you through the conversation.

Text R2 to continue

4. If you're holding the phone, read each message to your group, give them time to discuss, and summarize your group's responses.

Text R3

5. Note: you may receive 2 texts at the same time. Be sure to read the first one (1/2) before the second (2/2). Sometimes they will arrive in the opposite order.



Text R4

6. Before we talk about civility, let's define it!

Civility is the ability to disagree with others while respecting their sincerity and decency.

Text R5

7. The opposite of civility is incivility. According to our research, most people agree incivility includes threatening physical harm and using racial, religious, ethnic or sexual slurs.

Text R6

8. Discuss (5 min): In discussing something you care deeply about, why is it hard to talk to people with different points of view?

Text R7

9. Discuss (5 min) Talk about a time when you disagreed with another person on an issue. How did it make you feel?

Text R8

10. In a tense situation, have you noticed your heart beating faster, your breathing become irregular, or your face or body feel warmer?

Text R9

11. These normal physical reactions can make it harder to remain civil and think clearly. Remember to pause, take deep breaths, and respond kindly.

Text R10

12. When we are attached to our ideas, we can feel personally attacked when our ideas are in question. We can talk about ideas without making it personal.

Text R11

13. Brainstorm (5 min): How can you respectfully disagree with someone and still share your perspective?

Text R12

14. Sharing ideas is a two way street. Let's learn how to listen to others the way we want to be listened to. Watch this video: <http://bit.ly/ReallyListen>

Text R13

15. 15 min: Now let's practice active listening. Divide into groups of two. Click this link for instructions on the activity: <http://bit.ly/TTRCActivity>

Text R14



16. 5 min: Was it hard to actively listen and not respond with your own perspective? Did you learn something new about your partner's perspective?

Text R15

17. We don't have to change our values and beliefs to act civilly toward others. But by listening to others, we can enhance our understanding of that person's values, allowing us to feel more tolerance and empathy towards others.

Text R16

18. Watch this short video:

<http://bit.ly/HowtoDisagree>

Text R17

19. In the video, Kid President says that it is ok to disagree – but in doing so, we don't have to be mean and make everyone feel terrible.

Text R18

20. Go around your group: Next time someone disagrees with you, how will you respond? Text R19 plus your group's answers (e.g. R19 speak up, be kind, consider other's feelings)

21. What are ways to revive civility in our school and community? Share your ideas here <https://goo.gl/oOMoQ0> to help revive civility in your community.

Text R20

22. Civility challenge! In the next two weeks, listen to conversations around you and take note of the ways in which people are civil/uncivil.

Text R21

23. Are you each willing to commit to doing the civility challenge in the next two weeks?

Yes, most of us

Yes, half of us

No, none of us

Text R22 plus your group's answer (e.g. R22 Yes most of us)

24. Almost done! Have your group members write down this link of civility resources to check out later: <http://bit.ly/civilityresource>

Text R23

25. Thank you for participating in Text, Talk, Revive Civility!



Please help make this conversation even better by completing this short, 5 minute survey: https://dickinson.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dprMgl0EFbdw0QZ