

Discussion and Critical Thinking Questions:

Why is it helpful to have guidelines (explicit or implicit) for civil discourse?

What would happen if we didn't?

What happens when people don't follow the basic "rules" of civil discourse?

Why might people resort to incivil discourse or tactics?

There used to be a rule of etiquette: "Never discuss politics or religion in polite company." Do you think this is a good etiquette rule?

What should you do if the other person in a conversation attacks you or behaves incivily?

Why is it important to treat the other person with dignity and respect in a conversation—even if you strongly disagree?

It is generally accepted that "everyone is entitled to his/her own opinion." Do you agree with that? Why or why not?