

THISLANDIA™

★♥★ CIVILITY MANIFESTO ★♥★

CIVIL: Courteous, sufficiently polite.

CIVILITY: Civilized conduct : especially decency, courtesy and respectful behavior.



1: We are a thousand kinds of different. It's who we are. Yet our freedoms are corroded when we dismiss and insult each other simply for holding differing political and personal views. *Civil disagreement is the bedrock of a strong, dynamic democracy. Emphasis on civil.*

2: We have become divided. Though we are good people, we have allowed ourselves to hate and mock other good people with beliefs and perspectives opposing our own. We have forgotten our courtesy. It's getting worse. Let's work together to make it better. *America is founded on diversities of creed and color. Treat each other with civility.*

3: It's natural to have both strong beliefs and strong disagreements. Yet these days it often seems we're unwilling to speak as openly in person as when we post or text. We're afraid of what people will think. But we all need to be heard. We need to agree. We need to disagree. We are social beings. *We learn from hearing others, even if we don't share their opinions. A free society needs respectful, spoken, civil interaction. Talk to each other.*

4: We tend to believe things that fit our world view, even if they aren't true. Falsehoods have been repeated from all sides for so long that many of us now believe these tales to be true. Regardless your politics, evaluate what you hear. Seek the unbiased facts before rushing to judgement. *The truth can be confronting. If you don't have your facts straight, admit it, and study up. Empower yourself.*

5: When addressing a person with whom you disagree (assuming they are not physically attacking you), address them with straightforward respect and no malice. *Listen and try to understand your opponent's point of view. Then ask the same of them. If they are reasonable they will do so. If not, let it go.*

6: Whenever a vigorous debate ensues, and nostrils flare and tempers roil, watch out for your pride. It can make you say some crazy stupid things. Instead, disengage, breathe, cool off, then resume talks. *Words spoken in anger always do more lasting harm than those spoken after a good breather.*

7: If forced to negotiate or debate with someone having a tantrum. back off a smidge. Attacking back will make it worse. *Try to remain calm. Listen with care, be civil, acknowledge their issues. Respond patiently and firmly.*

8: Freedom of speech is our birthright. Yet it can be brutal at times. Sure, we are all free to speak our mind. But when we hate, mock and troll, we bypass our civility and break the bond of trust which binds our democracy. *Civility is the heart and soul of a free republic. Without it we are done for. With it we are all happier and better off. Let's make it better. Let's get to work. Let's get civil.*

