

RADICALLY 
* **POSSIBLE**
POWERFULLY
 **YOU**

The Art of College



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Focus Skill: Discussion



Civil discourse

Civil (adjective): courteous and polite.

Discourse (noun): an extended expression of thought on a subject.*

*According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary.

Civil Discourse is using patience and mutual respect when discussing a controversial topic. The purpose is not victory or defeat, but progress.

- Moderate your **tone**, so that you don't sound aggressive.
- **Be mindful of your own behavior.** Notice how you are reacting/responding when others speak. Pay attention to how your expression, words or your silence are impacting others.
- Pay attention and **consider** your opponent's point of view.
- Give **equal** time.
- **Don't embarrass yourself or disrespect others by making** demeaning or inappropriate comments, name calling, eye rolling, or sighing.
- Avoid condescension
- **Look for common ground**

Words to further civil discourse:

- I see your point (but...)
 - That's a fair point..
- I like that idea. (Here's another idea...)
 - Well said...
 - I hadn't thought of that...
- You bring up an important perspective...
 - Help me understand your meaning...

Conversational aids

- Using an analogy can help illustrate your point. For example:
Calling Jackson Pollock a painter is like calling my dog a musician.
- Keep to the topic! It's good to draw on connections from your life, but keep the reference short!
- Don't monopolize the conversation.
- Listen to what everybody in the room is saying.
- If you agree/disagree, say why.

***College knowledge: During a classroom discussion, don't have a conversation only with your instructor. Listen to your classmates, and build upon what they are saying !**

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Yea—but is it art?





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIL7pDeSj8s>



All the good times we spent together

Alexandre Lavet



Fountain

Marcel Duchamp (1917)

Portrait



$$\min_{\mathcal{D}} \max_{\mathcal{D}} \mathbb{E}_x [\log(\mathcal{D}(x))] + \mathbb{E}_y [\log(1 - \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{G}(y)))]$$

**Art as a political
statement/motivator for social
change**



IGNORANCE = FEAR



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SILENCE = DEATH



FIGHT AIDS
ACT UP



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