



How Civil Are YOU?

The Quiz

THIS QUIZ IS UNGRADED. THE PURPOSE IS TO HELP US LEARN MORE ABOUT CIVIL DISCOURSE SKILLS. CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER. WE WILL DISCUSS THE RESULTS TOGETHER.

1. Another student sits quietly in every discussion. You see that they have ideas but may feel too shy to speak. What can you do to help?
 - a. Nothing. It is their choice to remain silent.
 - b. I can stare at them to try to make them feel like talking.
 - c. I can whisper to them in the middle of the conversation to encourage them.
 - d. Say, "_____, we want to hear what you have to say."

2. When the class has a discussion, what role do you usually play?
 - a. I answer questions when I know the answer.
 - b. I try to make people laugh.
 - c. I am a peacemaker. I calm people down when they are upset.
 - d. I ask questions to try to understand more.
 - e. I sit quietly.

3. How can you tell that another person is actively listening to what you have to say?
 - a. They are making a serious face.
 - b. They are able to say important parts of my message back to me correctly.
 - c. They are sitting still.
 - d. They look like they are thinking.
 - e. They are quiet.

4. How do you make sure you're actually listening to what people say and not just waiting for other people to stop talking?

- a. I look them in the eye and actively think about what they are saying.
- b. I stay calm, even when I disagree with them.
- c. I pay attention to the message they are telling me.
- d. I don't think of what I want to say until they are finished talking.
- e. All of the above.

5. What should I do if I disagree with what somebody is saying?

- a. Try to persuade them to think my way.
- b. Get angry or sad.
- c. Respectfully tell them that I disagree, and then explain my reasons.
- d. Sit silently and not tell them I think they are wrong.
- e. Tell them they are wrong and walk away.

6. Is a disagreement the same as an argument?

- a. Yes
- b. No

7. When people disagree, what is the goal of discussion?

- a. To see who wins the argument (who is correct and who is wrong).
- b. There is no goal. It causes too much stress. Make it stop.
- c. To persuade others to think like you.
- d. To try to understand and respect each other.

8. What can you use to back up your opinions in a discussion?

- a. My life experiences.
- b. Logic, reasons, facts.
- c. The testimony of reliable witnesses and experts.
- d. All of the above.

9. What can you do if you really don't understand what someone is saying in a discussion?

- a. Ask them a question to clarify so that you can get more information.
- b. Say nothing and just move on.
- c. Roll your eyes, because they are acting crazy.
- d. Tell them your ideas and ignore what they are saying.

10. How can we control our emotions when we disagree so that our discussion is productive instead of turning into a fight?

- a. Breathing deeply when we think we're getting upset.
- b. Try to stay calm.
- c. Actively listen and let others speak so that we don't interrupt or take over the conversation.
- d. Stay focused on the goal of finding something we can all agree on (finding common ground).
- e. All of the above.

Answer Key for How Civil Are YOU? The Quiz

1. The best answer is d.

Feedback: Sometimes we all need a little encouragement to talk. Inviting shy kids into the conversation helps them use their voice.

Questions: Why do people remain silent? How can we help everyone feel comfortable? When other people are whispering while you are trying to talk, how does that make you feel?

2. Any answer is fine.

Feedback: Everyone is different, and we all have different skills. In class discussions, it is helpful when everyone speaks respectfully, tries to understand one another, and empathizes, even when we disagree.

3. The best answer is b.

Feedback: It is possible to quietly sit still, make a serious face, and look like you are thinking but still not be listening fully. When somebody is actively listening, they should be able to repeat what was said.

Question: How does it feel when somebody listens well?

4. The best answer is e.

Feedback: We need to do all these things when we are actively listening. We should also wait until after a person finishes speaking to start thinking about what we want to say next.

5. The best answer is c.

Feedback: Remember, it is OK to think differently, and we can help each other by respectfully discussing our different viewpoints.

6. The best answer is b.

Feedback: Disagreement simply means that people do not agree. It is possible to think differently about something and still be respectful to each other.

7. The best answer is d.

Feedback: Disagreement simply means that we think differently. The goal of a discussion during a disagreement is to help each other understand our different ways of thinking. We don't have to persuade each other to think the same, and it is not a competition to see who is right. Understanding, respect, and seeking common ground is the goal.

8. The best answer is d.

Feedback: All of these can be used.

9. The best answer is a.

Feedback: When we don't understand what another person is saying, instead of just moving on, ignoring them, or rolling our eyes, we should show them respect by asking them to explain their ideas differently to help us understand their message.

10. The best answer is e.

Feedback: We need to do all these things when we feel strong emotions.

Question: What can we say during a heated discussion to find common ground?