

## ***Essay 6 – Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, Collaboration***

The three words, civics, civility, and collaboration are very important to everyone's community. We call these words the Cornerstones of Democracy. Civics is the study of rights and duties of citizenship. Civility is the formal politeness and courtesy in behavior or speech. Collaboration is the action of working with someone to produce or create something. However, they mean something different for everyone. Those words each have an important role in how our community works.

Civics plays a very important role in our democracy. Civics is the responsibility of the people in a democracy. Everybody has a responsibility, or job, in a community. That responsibility might be to not litter, or to do your job if you are a cop, firefighter, nurse, doctor, or someone else that helps your community. Everybody has a responsibility that helps their community even if they don't know it. Even kids have a responsibility, to go to school and learn every day. Thanks to civics, nobody has too much responsibility. Not just one nurse has to take care of a whole floor of sick or injured people. Not just one firefighter has to make sure everyone is safe and put out fires at the same time. Not just one person has to make sure that the whole community is clean and up to date. This is civics.

Civility makes it to where everyone respects other people's decisions and people's rights. It is also a very important role in a democracy. Civility is the respect of law, the respect of rights for people's or group's decisions, and the respect of rights for individuals themselves. If we didn't have civility, people probably would be constantly fighting or arguing with each other. People would be mad about laws a democracy made, or decisions a group of people made. Without civility, everyone would be mad. Civility allows everyone to be at peace in a

community. When a democracy that doesn't have civility makes a decision or law that people don't like, this could cause riots, or even war.

Collaboration is the third cornerstone of a democracy. It too, like the other cornerstones, plays an important role in a democracy. To me, collaboration symbolizes partnership, and working together. Collaboration is when people work together to produce, create, or make something. If a democracy did not have collaboration, people would not work together. If people work together, that allows people to create better ideas and products. Collaboration allows people to share and create better products, ideas, laws, or anything with other people.

In this essay, we have learned about how the three cornerstones of democracy each work individually. However, they work best together. Civics allows everyone to have a responsibility that helps their community. Civility allows people and the government to make decisions without other people getting angry. Collaboration allows people to work together on tasks that might be too challenging for one person. Together these words make an almost perfect democracy.