

## The Cornerstones Of Democracy

DEMOCRACY! The sovereign right of every American who has ever walked this Earth. The keystone connecting the Bill Of Rights to the Constitution, allowing everything to be run and enforced smoothly. Democracy is what keeps the country of America running. But, how does it work? What is it? Why is it the form of Government we use?

There is a lot to factor in as to why we use Democracy. One is how our founding fathers built our country by hating monarchs and having equal rights. Another is giving the people the most rights. But, the most important of the 3 are the Cornerstones of Democracy. Civics, Civility, and Collaboration.

What are these 3 Cornerstones and why are they so important? Here's why. Civics are the rights and duties of every citizen, like not littering, not causing mayhem on our streets, and being decent in public. This also includes respecting our rights, like freedom of speech, religion, and the right to carry guns. Respecting our rights has gone a bit too far, with some using the right to carry guns as an excuse to have their armory or even give guns to kids, which leads to most school shootings. This is why you should be an active voter and stand up for what you believe in. Want to change the law? Vote, send a letter to your congressman, and do what you think is right to get your message heard because we're all in this country together.

The second Cornerstone, Civility, is a very big issue for our country as well. Civility is being respectful to one another. Some examples are respecting your fellow civilian's opinions,

not committing hate crimes, and overall being a decent person. Our nation as a whole is struggling with civility by being racist, homophobic, ableist, feminist, and so on while using the freedom of speech to back it up. Being a bad person is wrong, and again, we all should use the rights we were given as an American to change that.

Lastly, collaboration is working together to make a change in our country. I am very well accustomed to this, being that I'm a Boy Scout. People always talk about changing our world to be greener, cleaner, and hate-free. Well, collaboration brings the first 2 cornerstones together by encouraging us to make a stand and be active in our society.

All in all, Democracy is the first step to a better world for me. By using these cornerstones, we can not only make a better world for ourselves but those to come.