



An awareness and education campaign to bring civility to government, the private sector and schools. #CivilityCounts

The problem: Lack of civility is everywhere. In politics, in daily interactions, on social media, on the road, in our cities and our towns. Neighbors don't know each other. Politicians aren't willing to cross the aisle to work with each other. Gun violence makes headlines almost daily. Kids are bullying each other in person and online to the point of violence.

The solution: A multi-pronged approach involving media, education, and the public and private sectors. This includes education, as well as bringing community members together to have hard conversations in a safe space.

HOW DO WE GET INVOLVED?

Media should find a community partner that believes in the cause and make it a big deal. Write stories and columns. Hold a press conference. Start a campaign on your social accounts and [like the main Civility page](#). Then dive into the four sectors:

1. **Politics:** On any level, legislators can make a civility resolution. That resolution can be used as a meeting disclaimer, saying that this body will not tolerate uncivil discourse. Anyone that verbally or physically attacks anyone else will be escorted out. That happens on both sides of the table. See what the Indiana Senate passed [here](#). There is also free civility training available to state legislators by our partners at the [National Institute for Civil Discourse](#) (NICD).
2. **Education:** Civility relies on informed leaders. Teach media literacy everywhere you can. Media can also focus on the good work the schools are already doing. [Spotlight anti-bullying initiatives](#) in a weekly or monthly series, challenge students to [produce anti-bullying posters, essays and videos](#) and reward a winner. Partner with your schools and create a Civility in the Classroom course, or use ours. [\(To come in September.\)](#)
3. **Events:** Raise visibility of the initiative by participating in events around your region. Set up a booth to give out civility swag. Talk about civility and why it's important. Offer to [welcome citizens to a big event](#), invite partners and the public and give out info there.
4. **Private/business:** There are multiple non-profits and innovative trainings to combat incivility in the workplace. Partner with them to bring it to offices and companies around your area. In Northwest Indiana, we've partnered with the United Way to create a grassroots leadership program that will focus on similar themes to our Civility in the Classroom program, but for adults. [\(To come in January.\)](#)

WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?

- Print a civility disclaimer on your opinion page and stick to it. No uncivil letters or comments.
- Print up business cards, signs and t-shirts for a grassroots marketing campaign to get people talking about civility.
- Meet with local groups and start a discourse around civility.
- Create a monthly civility community award recognizing people, or big acts of civility.
- Make appearances on other media outlets around your area and talk about why civility matters.
- Write monthly columns.
- Become a partner of NICD's [#ReviveCivility](#) initiative.
- Attend our [World Civility Day](#) event, to be held in April, 2017, or start your own.