

# TYLA CIVILITY *for All*

## **Civility for All – Middle School – Discussion Guide**

Civility for All encourages students to be respectful, engaged, and civil members and leaders in their communities.

What is the definition of Civility? The act of showing regard for others by being polite and respectful. We all know that remaining civil is easy when conversations go in agreeance. But what about those situations when there are opposing viewpoints? Arguments? Even anger?

In the heat of the moment, one can find it to be an extremely daunting task to remain civil. So perhaps the better question on the subject is, “Why is it important to treat each other with civility?” That is the main purpose of Civility for All.

### Targeted TEKS

- Middle School Standards– TEKS 6.11(A-B), 6.12(A-B), 6.19(B, D), 6.22, 7.15(B), 7.16(A-B), 7.20(B, D, E), 7.23, 8.19(C), 8.21(A), 8.29(B, D, E), 8.31

### Discussion

- 1) What is an attorney? What characteristics do you think an attorney should have? Why are there attorneys, and what role do that play in society?

Personal Application: Do you know any attorneys? What are they like?

- 2) What is civility? How would you describe someone who is civil?

Personal Application: Do you know anyone in your life that you would describe as civil? If yes, then what makes them civil?

- 3) How would you describe someone that is the opposite of civil? Without naming names, do you think that there are uncivil people in the world, or have you seen someone be uncivil towards others?
- 4) When thinking about the history you have learned in your social studies classes, can you think of any leaders in history that stand out to you as being civil? Were the results positive or negative? What about uncivil? Were these results positive or negative? How did they way that they acted influence others, or even influence history?
- 5) After discussing all of this, do you think that being a civil person is valuable? Why should society strive to be civil?
- 6) Do you think that you can put things into practice to be more civil? Can we learn to be civil?

Person Application: What are ways that you can strive to be more civil in your life? Think about the way that you treat your friends, family, and teachers.

- 7) Do you think that attorneys are always civil? Name some examples of attorney acting with civility, and then name some examples of an attorney acting with incivility. After thinking about those two types of attorneys, do you think that they need to be civil?
- 8) Do you think that there should be a punishment for being uncivil? What should that punishment be? How should attorneys respond to people that are being uncivil?

Personal Application: How should you respond to people that are being uncivil? Do you think that it is easy or more difficult to treat these people with civility, even though they are not treating you the same?

