

Let's Talk Politics

DISCUSSING POLITICS WITH YOUR PARENTS

BY: OLIVIA SMIDEL

As you've grown up and formed your own opinions based on politics, you may have started to disagree and argue with your parents. Facilitating these conversations can be difficult but extremely important. Follow along for tips and tricks to make these conversations easier, less tense and more productive.

PROTEST POLARIZATION

Sometimes it feels as if we will never agree on politics due to polarization. However, it is important to remember that media can frame political issues to appear more polarized than they truly are (Youngju, 2020). Ensure that you maintain an open mind when in discussion and evaluate media hesitantly for framing and dramatization of politics.

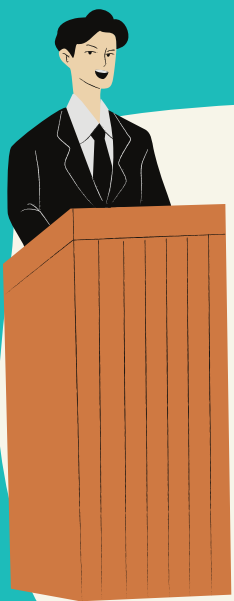


CULTIVATE CLOSNESS

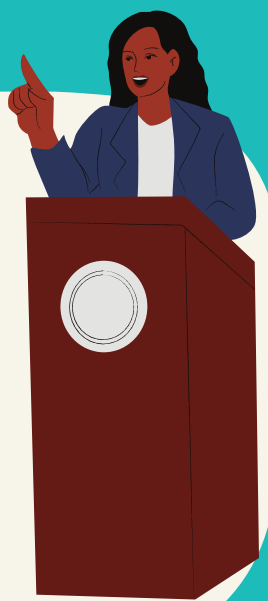


Political conversation can drive family members apart, but it doesn't have to. In fact, talking about politics can make family members feel even closer. Closeness can increase when there is less conformity and when political discussion is encouraged within the family regardless of differing opinions (Johnson, 2019).

PARTISANSHIP VS. PARTY



It is important to remember how powerful polarization is; however, it often occurs due to a dislike of partisanship rather than dislike for the opposing party (Professor, 2018). When discussing politics with parents, you must keep in mind that partisanship causes political parties to appear much farther apart than they actually are.



CALCULATE THE COST

Prior research has found that individuals would rather talk to their co-partisans than talk to out-partisans at all; the cost outweighs the benefits (Settle, 2019). It is important to keep in mind the cost of arguing about politics with family members. If your parents are part of the opposing party, does it cost more to have these discussions or to lose your relationship?



SOURCES:

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