FOSTERING CIVILITY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Here are some tips to stay respectful on social media.

CHECK FOR ACCURACY
We are often in such a hurry that we share stories when we see them posted by a trusted source or based on their titles alone. In today's age of negative and false news, that is not enough. Before you share any information, make sure the story is true and accurate. Take a few moments to read the entire story and check included facts.

AVOID INSULTS & NAME CALLING
Never say anything on social media that you would not feel comfortable saying to someone in person. Separate people's opinions from who they are as a person. Avoid name calling, insults, or labeling. Before posting, consider whether your story/comment contributes to civility or to incivility.

SEEK INFORMATION FROM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES
Research reveals that our media feeds are filled with information based on sites we already prefer. This can lead to having a singular viewpoint about issues. It is important to read and to be open to news from various media sources and posts from people with differing opinions on social and political issues.

WALK AWAY
When you see something on social media that upsets you - pause. Do not immediately respond. Instead, step away and take time to think if there is a response that would contribute to civil discourse. For example, is it true? Helpful? Necessary? Remember you do not always have to comment.

SPREAD RESPECT
Share information about the role of civility and respect in promoting constructive conversations. Highlight instances of civility and respect. Sign the pledge to Revive Civility. Be an example for others by demonstrating respectful dialogue.

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