



With Malice Toward None
Core Values, Expectations, and Principles

Core Values and Expectations for Events

1. Respect: We will talk about our fellow citizens on the other side with respect for their intelligence and good will. We will avoid characterizing them as deserving our disdain or pity.
2. Humility: We will talk about our own side with the knowledge that our leaders are not perfect and that our current policy solutions are not complete answers to our nation's complex problems.
3. Honesty: We will allow people to feel what they are feeling about the election. We will not ask them hide their satisfaction and joy if their side won, or their grief and anger if their side lost.
4. Responsible Citizenship: We will emphasize that it's up to all of us, we-the-people, to depolarize our politics and meet our common challenges.

Ten Principles for Productive Political Disagreement

Principles that guide Braver Angels and the With Malice Toward None initiative

1. The Golden Rule in political disagreement is treating your opponents the way you would wish them to treat you. It means the inner desire to do good to those with whom you disagree. This gift unlocks the best in us and is the essence of good citizenship.
2. Good citizenship involves speaking your mind fully and freely, without fear.
3. Political disagreements are natural and can be healthy. Good citizenship does not mean denying or running away from conflict – it means resolving conflict for the good of all.
4. Anger and passion are natural and can be healthy. Good citizenship does not mean denying those feelings – it means linking them to something higher, which is the search for truth.

5. Our access to truth is imperfect. No individual or group has all the answers. The Scriptures put it this way: “Now we see through a glass, darkly” and “Now I know in part.” That’s why we need the transcendent and each other in our search for truth.
6. Disagreeing individuals and groups can almost always learn something important from one another and discover something of value in one another’s perspectives.
7. People and groups who disagree sometimes have more in common than they realize. Clarifying disagreement and reducing stereotyped thinking about one’s opponents can sometimes lead to unexpected common ground.
8. Discussion, dialogue, and debates are tools of democracy through which people and groups who disagree can hear one another, learn from each other, and seek to resolve conflicts.
9. One way of resolving conflict is compromise. Another is resolving disagreements at the higher level of widely embraced improved ideas which include what is best from both sides.
10. Respect and kindness make persuasion possible. Argument alone almost never works. Abraham Lincoln put it this way: “If you would win a person to your case, first convince them that you are their sincere friend.”