

The Decline of Civility

As I walk to class, I hold the door open for the stranger behind me, but as I follow another student in the next building he does not even bother to look behind him; just opening the door enough for himself to slip in. As I sit in my lecture, I look around at all the students with headphones in, or on some type of social media, some having a conversation with their friend next to them about how drunk they got this past weekend. As soon as the clock hits 9:50 students are already out the door before our professor can even finish his last sentence. Civility is showing reasonably polite respect for others in public as a matter of habit; something no one in my generation seems to have. Some say the incivility in our classrooms and workplaces is dangerous and needs to be changed, and I agree.

Incivility or lack of consideration for others such as our professors and fellow classmates can cause a lot of conflict in the learning environment. Uncivil student behavior can cause professors stress, frustration and will eventually cause them to burn out. Most professors are here to teach us about a subject they love and are highly interested in, they often want to share that interest with us but more often than not students go to class to sit on their phones and computers, catch up on some sleep, talk to their friends about weekend plans or come completely unprepared. After a while, this causes the professors to spend less time working on lesson plans because they know the students are not paying attention anyways. When the professors get to the

point of giving up its effects on the students whom are actually coming to learn are disappointing.

According to Patrick J. Morrisette a professor at Brandon University a few ways to handle classroom incivility is effective communication skills such as using civil language, keeping a good attitude, listen to what the students have to say, and be a positive role model to them. Another way Morrisette suggested handling classroom incivility is by Establishing a Collaborative Learning Environment; this is making a classroom experience that focuses more on student's success. Changing up the normal lecturer style format and encourage working together a co-operative learning environment. (Morrisette) Although it is not all up to the professors to change incivility in the classroom setting, as students in college, we should know how to show civility to our professors and fellow classmates. Coming to class on time and prepared, not sleeping through a lecture, putting our phones away, not talking to our friends, these are all things that can be done before or after class. We need to stop taking the opportunity of a college education for granted and instead embrace it.

Incivility in the workplace is also growing to an all-time high. "According to one study, 96 percent of employees have experienced incivility at work, with 48 percent of them claiming to experience incivility at least once a week." (HEARN) Experiencing that amount of incivility at the work place can cause many problem to a company and have an effect on how efficiently it runs. Incivility in the work place can cause stress, difficulties in communication between co-workers and employee burn out. According to Christine Porath and Christine Pearson from the

Harvard Business Review, a poll of 800 managers and employees answered questions about how their actions are effected by incivility. 48% intentionally decreased their work effort, 47% intentionally decreased the time spent at work, 38% intentionally decreased the quality of their work, 66% said that their performance declined, 78% said that their commitment to the organization declined, 12% said that they left their job because of the uncivil treatment, 25% admitted to taking their frustration out on customers. (Pearson)

A few things to do to improve civility in a work place is improve communication between employees, give them an opportunity to talk about stress they have encountered over the week so it can be worked out and better for the following week. Also making sure your human services department is well trained and employees know it is somewhere to go and talk about the incivility they are experiencing, because ignoring the problem is only going to make it worse.

Over the past few years our society has been on a down word spiral, the way we have started to treat one another is not normal. We are constantly putting one another down, treating others with absolutory no respect, acting as if we all are better than the other, and it is not stopping with us. When you have children or are around them often you need to watch what you say and how you act because they learn from us, they want to be and do exactly what we do. Civility starts at home where children should be learning these manners, at school and in public places is where they should start to be applied. Teaching the children of the next generation might not fix the entire problem but it is a place to start.

In conclusion, civility is a nationwide problem that is continuing to grow. It is affecting schools, workplaces, communities and friendships. In schools, students are showing no respect to their professors, by texting and using other forms of social media through class, talking to friends about weekend plans, coming unprepared, sleeping through it, and many other disrespectful things. By showing this type of incivility, they are burning out the professors will to teach and disrupting the other student's opportunity to learn and grow. In addition, incivility is ruining companies by making work a dreaded place to go. People who experience incivility in the workplace are more likely to do work of inferior quality, avoid coming into the work place and eventually quit to find a better job. Incivility is also making our society a place where people do not feel welcomed because of the way we treat one another. If we all start to realize the actions were taking and how to change them incivility will be put behind us. As members of our society, it is our duty to make our community as civil as possible.

Works Cited

HEARN, STUART. <https://www.business.com/articles/stuart-hearn-workplace-incivility/>. 22 February 2017. 25 March 2017.

Morrisette, Patrick J. "Reducing Incivility in the University/College." 2001.
<http://iejll.journalhosting.ucalgary.ca/iejll/index.php/ijll/article/view/497/159>. 25 march 2017.

Pearson, Christine Porath and Christine. *Harvard Business Review* . january-February 2013. 25 March 2017.