

15
minutes

What You'll Need: [Video](#) • [Student Handout](#)

Note: As an example for use when discussing civil discourse, this activity features a survivor of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in 2018, Cameron Kasky, who now advocates for gun control. This activity is not about gun control and, should this controversial topic overshadow the discussion on civil discourse, consider using a sentence stem from the [“Tips for Managing Controversial Issues in CSD Classrooms”](#) document to help steer the conversation back to the activity at hand. Considering the context of your school community, you may want to provide advanced notice to families on Canvas and share the intent of this lesson prior to sharing it with students.

Activity Steps

1. **Introduce** the video topic to students by saying: *Today we're going to watch a video that explores how we can communicate with civility online.*
2. **Show** the [Civil Discourse Online](#) video (5:33 minutes). (Note: The video is also available in Spanish, and you can also use the video player to turn on subtitles.)
3. **Lead** a class discussion exploring the questions below.

Optional: You can also distribute the [Student Handout](#) and have students respond to the questions prior to group or whole-class discussion.

Discussion Questions

1. *What are some of the big takeaways from Cameron Kasky's story?*

Sample responses:

- Kasky and his classmates used social and digital media to start a movement advocating for a cause they were passionate about.
- Kasky is proud of the movement they started but feels badly about hurtful things that were said both by him and by others against him.
- Kasky explains that it is important to always keep in mind that behind every social media account there is a real person.

2. *What does Kasky say about debating with people who disagree with you? Do you agree?*

Sample responses:

- Kasky feels strongly that it is important to engage in debate, and especially to debate people who disagree with you.
- Kasky also feels that it is important to remember that there is a real person behind the opinions. He believes debate should always be about the issues and ideas, and not about attacking people personally.



RELATIONSHIPS & COMMUNICATION

**We know the power
of words & actions.**