

## Gen Z Wants Open-Minded Political Dialogue

*Springtide™ Research Institute Data Find That Teens and Young Adults Want Healthy, Open-Minded Political Engagement—but Don't Necessarily See It Modeled by Adults*

Bloomington, MN (October 1, 2020) – Most young people ages 13 to 25 want open-minded political conversation, according to new survey data released by Springtide™ Research Institute.

- **81% of young people ages 13 to 25 say it is important to try to understand both sides of a political issue.**
- **84% agree that educating oneself about the views of others is important for seeing both sides of an issue.**
- **77% want to have open conversation about differences.**
- **Fewer than a third (32%) would stop talking to someone who strongly opposes their political values.**

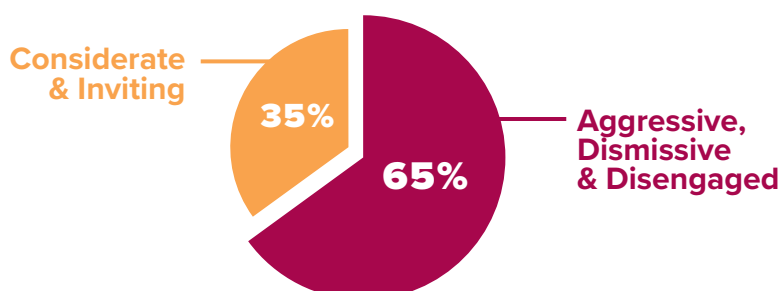
Despite these commitments to healthy and open-minded political dialogue, when asked about how they perceive adults' attitudes in general when they talk about politics, young people selected aggressive, dismissive, and disengaged (65%) almost twice as often as they selected considerate and inviting (35%). Corey, age 21, interviewed by Springtide for this study, remarked:

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I have had very few healthy political conversations in my lifetime. They're all just—nobody wants to listen. They just want to talk.

Corey, 21,

### How young people perceive the way adults engage in politics



When asked about adults in their lives, 45% of respondents say they wish the adults in their lives would let them into conversation about politics more often, and 41% feel like most adults in their lives disregard their opinions about political issues. Study participant Alyssa, age 19, typifies these respondents:

“ They half listen to our opinions, thoughts, whatever the case may be. They don’t really hear us out.

Alyssa, 19

**52%**

of young people say they know more about politics than adults give them credit for.

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When we broke this finding out by age,

**47%**

of 13-to-17-year-olds—who cannot yet legally vote—tell us they know more about politics than adults give them credit for.

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**Young people care about politics, and they want to be engaged in healthy, open-minded political engagement—but they need to see it modeled and encouraged by the adults in their lives.**

Find out what our research revealed about young people’s political influences, their faith lives, and how they’re navigating remote learning and work in *The State of Religion and Young People 2020: Relational Authority*.

This important study can be found on Springtide Research Institute’s website: [www.springtideresearch.org](http://www.springtideresearch.org).

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Springtide Research Institute is a sociological research institute listening to the inner and outer lives of young people ages 13 to 25. Amplifying young people’s lived experiences through unbiased research and the generation of evidence-based actionable insights, we seek to help those who care about young people, care better.