

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.**

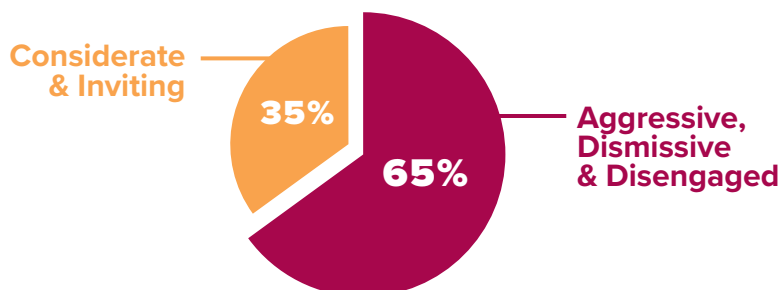
Despite these commitments to healthy and open-minded political dialogue, when asked about how they perceive adults' attitudes in general when they talk about politics, young people selected aggressive, dismissive, and disengaged (65%) almost twice as often as they selected considerate and inviting (35%).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

“

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.

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.

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.