

Survey on Civility and Democracy

Findings on Young Men May 21, 2025

Data on crisis in America, newly released by the Ronald Reagan Foundation' Center on Civility and Democracy, reveals a significant deficit in core civility values among young American men. This survey excerpt reveals that young men ages 18 - 29 show less inclination towards finding common ground, respecting opposing views, or rejecting political violence. They also use social media as a news source significantly more – which many Americans consider a toxic environment that could contribute to the civility gap in young men.

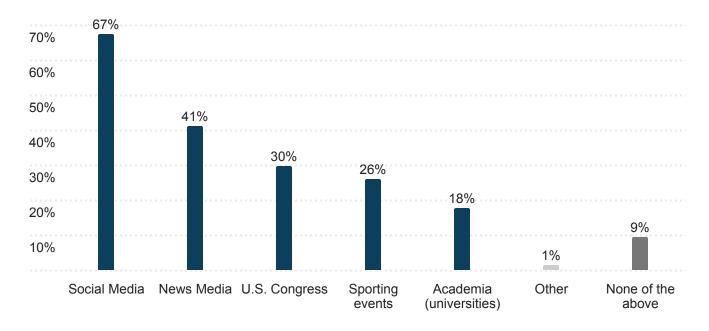
Methodology: Pinkston conducted an online survey of a nationally representative sample of 1,555 U.S. adults on issues related to civility and democracy. The survey was conducted January 21-27, 2025 and has a margin of error of 2.3%.

The first section of findings from this study, on common ground and perceptions of democracy, was released in February 2025. Those findings can be viewed and downloaded at: www.reaganfoundation.org/civility-and-democracy

Pinkston.

Civil Discourse, Toxic Environments and Practicing Civility

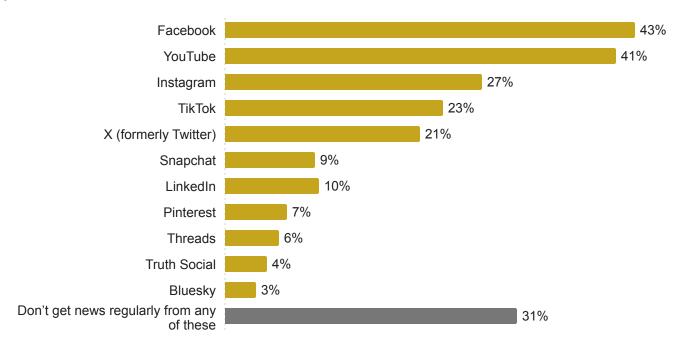
Which of these, if any, would you consider "toxic" environments for civil dialogue? Please select all that apply.



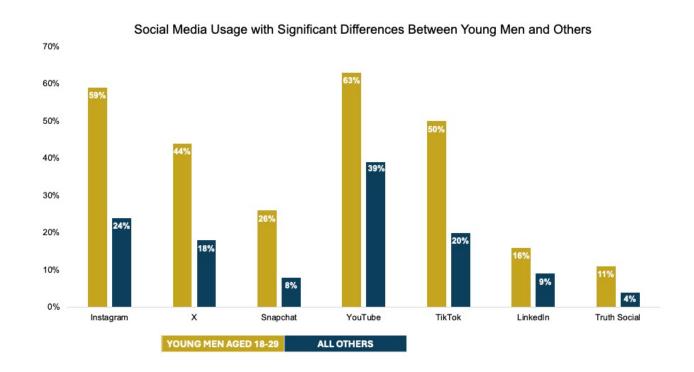
Most Americans consider social media (67%) to be a toxic environment for civil dialogue - another 41% consider the news media to be toxic.

• 18-29 year olds (73%) and those older than 65 (72%) are more likely to say social media is a toxic environment for civil dialogue.

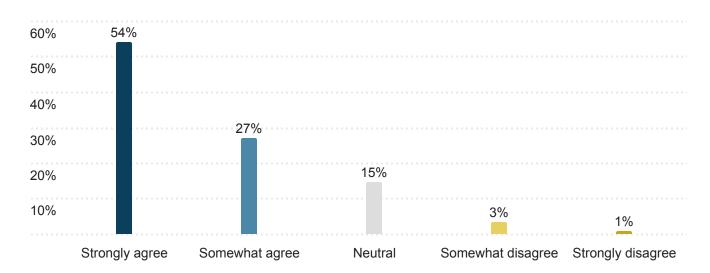
Do you regularly get news from any of the following social media platforms? Please select all that apply.



Roughly 4-in-10 Americans get their news from either Facebook (43%) or YouTube (41%). Young men disproportionately get their news from social media.



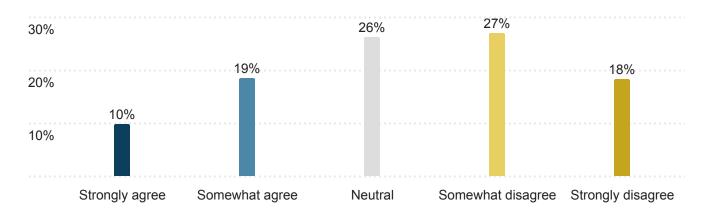
Would you agree or disagree? When you lose, it is important to exhibit sportsmanship and congratulate the winner.



Roughly 8-in-10 Americans believe it is important to exhibit sportsmanship and congratulate the winner when they lose.

- The importance of exhibiting sportsmanship when you lose increases with age, with those older than 65 being most likely to "strongly agree (65%)." Just 41% of those aged 18-29 "strongly agree."
- Females (60%) are significantly more likely than Males (49%) to "strongly agree."
- Whites (59%) are significantly more likely than African Americans (43%), Hispanics (44%), and Asians (46%) to "strongly agree."

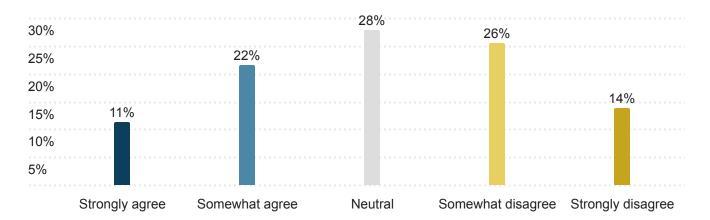
Would you agree or disagree? When it comes to important issues, if you invite someone with an opposing viewpoint to speak their opinion, you have given them the upper hand.



Three-in-10 Americans (29%) may struggle with civil dialogue: they *agree* that when you invite someone with an opposing viewpoint to speak, you have given them the upper hand. Nearly half of adults (45%) disagree: they recognize that hearing different opinions is part of civil dialogue.

- African Americans (41%) and Hispanics (38%) are more likely than Whites (23%) to agree.
- Democrats (28%) and Republicans (33%) are more likely than Independents (22%) to agree.

Would you agree or disagree? If I feel someone is incorrect on an issue that is important to me personally, I have to doubt their character as a person.



One third of Americans (33%) take differences of opinion personally: they feel if someone is incorrect on an issue that is important to them, they must doubt the other person's character. Four-in-ten (40%) disagree with this perspective.

- Asians (44%), Hispanics (39%), and African Americans (38%) are more likely to agree than Whites (29%).
- Democrats (37%) are more likely than Republicans (31%) to agree.
- Those older than 65 (58%) are more likely to disagree compared to those aged 18-29 (26%).

Looking across all civility attitudes, one group emerges as least equipped or in need of coaching or education: young men.

