

WELCOME BACK!

- Announcements
- Us!
- Any new kids on the block?
- Afghanistan, Haiti, Vax mandates, etc,
etc
- What do we do?



We do this.



Not this.



What to look forward to



THE OBSERVER



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How to deal with difficult people (Including yourself)



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Learning how to deal with
people
is **essential**.

So if you're not a "people
person", become one.



"Dealing" with
people? It's all about
the exchange

trading...

- information
- ideas
- ...insults

**So how do you deal with a
difficult person?**

(A: Carefully)

- 1. Humanize**
- 2. Analyze**
- 3. Incentivize**

1. Humanize

- friends of opposite party? what makes them your friends?
- twitter syndrome: instant anger, instant hatred, instant response
- easier to do when you don't know the person
- equating threats to our positions with threats to our identity
- Xtian view: made in image and likeness of God. God is in that person. Treating someone as lesser (implicitly or not) than ourselves is wrong.
- Moral judges
- Non-faith based view: human beings have dignity, respect for others, family or life situation





2. Analyze

- Before you shout your opinions, hear theirs.
- Ditch assumptions.
- active listening: what is this?
- listening WITHOUT intent to respond
- ask them questions. Instead of, "well, I think that..." ask, "given what you said, what do you think about (contrasting view)?"
- Check yourself. Am I bringing any biases to the table with me?
- Receiving bias vs evaluating bias
- What they say vs HOW they say it
- Ex. "if you don't believe x or do y, you are a raving lunatic damned to the smelliest pits of hell"

3. Incentivize

Know why you support something.

- why do you believe in your view? Cause someone told you to? Cause your parents/friends have that view?
- Is your view universalizable?
- If you were in an opposite situation, would you still support your view?
- examples: taxes, abortion

Why should they listen to you?

- How does your view benefit them?
- Question of morality? Logistics? Efficiency?
- How important is this? Don't argue over small things.
- Are you explaining or trying to convert them?
- Respect their viewpoints

Watch your credibility.

- What gives you the right to say your opinion is right and theirs is wrong?
- Do you have direct experience with your issue? Do you have direct experience with an opposing argument?
- examples: where you live

Discuss.

- Do you have friends whose political beliefs are pretty different? What made you become friends?
- College friendships: how often do you talk about politics? More or less than in high school?
- What issue in American (or foreign!) politics do you feel has become the most politicized in 2021?
- Have you ever experienced "Twitter syndrome?" Ever gotten into a comment/DM fight?
- Ever argued with a close friend or family member about politics? What happened?
- Ever had to endure Aunt Marge's hot takes at Thanksgiving? Are you more accepting of your family's political positions than of strangers'? Why do you think that is?
- How comfortable do you feel voicing your opinions, especially when the rest of the room seems to disagree with you? Ever feel pressured to stay silent or silently agree?
- Are politicians making America more polarized, or are they simply reflecting the culture America itself has built?
- How easy is it for you to admit when someone else's view or plan is better or more reasonable than your own?
- How easy is it for you to admit you made a mistake?