

NAVIGATING POLITICAL DIFFERENCES IN YOUR CHAPTER



PHI MU DELTA

Political differences can create tensions within any group, including fraternity and sorority chapters. This discussion aims to help members navigate these differences respectfully, maintain unity, and foster an environment where diverse political views can coexist without compromising the bonds of brotherhood or sisterhood.

Desired Outcomes



- Increased understanding and respect for diverse political views
- Strategies for maintaining chapter unity despite political differences
- Improved communication skills for discussing sensitive political topics
- Reinforced commitment to shared fraternal values above political divides

Ground Rules for Civil Discourse



1. Listen to understand, not to respond
2. Speak from your own experience using "I" statements
3. Respect others' rights to hold different opinions
4. Avoid personal attacks or generalizations about groups
5. Seek common ground and shared values
6. Be open to changing your perspective



Remember, the goal is not to change anyone's political beliefs but to foster an environment of mutual respect and understanding. Our fraternal bonds should be strong enough to withstand political differences.

Discussion Questions

How do we usually talk about politics in our chapter? What works well, and what could be better?

Research from Tuft University's CIRCLE project says that young people care about many different issues. What political issues do our members care about the most, and why?

How can we allow members to share their political views without worrying about being judged or excluded?

What do we all believe in, no matter our politics? How can we focus on these things to stay united?



The CIRCLE research shows that only 35% of young adults feel supported when they want to act on their political concerns. How can our group support them while still respecting different views?

How can we get everyone to talk about politics and take part in their community in a respectful way, without supporting specific candidates or parties?

What can we do to calm political arguments when they happen in our chapter?

How can we use our different political views to strengthen our chapter instead of splitting us up?

What should group leaders do when there are political arguments or problems in the chapter?

How can we let members share their political views while ensuring everyone, including new members, feels welcome?



CIRCLE is an independent research organization focused on youth civic engagement in the United States. It conducts extensive research on youth participation to improve opportunities for all young people to learn the skills they need to participate in civic life, with a focus on addressing systemic barriers for marginalized and underrepresented youth.



Phi Mu Delta stands out among fraternities for its founding principle of democracy. Since its establishment in 1918, this brotherhood has been dedicated to shaping young college men into future ethical community leaders, emphasizing the importance of civic engagement and local service.