A Resource Guide to “Preserving Democracy”

One chief characteristic of Democracy is the ability to have open and honest discussions about the issues that matter most. Sometimes that seems either difficult or downright impossible. Here are some resources to help you think through what divides us around political issues.

Know Your History of Democracy

Are we to be a nation? 1783-1788. *Liberty, Episode 6* on PBS at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiFuGdWT17c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiFuGdWT17c)


Know Your History of Other Nations’ Struggles


Website of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum: https://www.ushmm.org

Why are Political Views so Hard to Change?

Haidt, Jonathan. *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion*

Haber, Jonathan, *Critical Voter: Using the Next Election to Make Yourself (and Your Kids) Smarter*


Stein, Randy. “‘Trumping’ conformity: Urges towards conformity to ingroups and nonconformity to morally opposed outgroups.” *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 70, 34-40.

How to Talk to People with Different Political Perspectives

Hauser, Christine. “How to Argue Fairly and Without Rancor (Hello, Thanksgiving!” *NYTimes.com*. 16 Nov. 2016. [https://nyti.ms/2f0qOM9](https://nyti.ms/2f0qOM9)

Understand Power and Corruption

Emerson, S. & Wang, J., 2017. Ethical responsibility of public administrators from the legislator’s view: An analysis based on a California case study. *Public Integrity*. [Accepted for 2017]


Know Your Rights


Website of the Anti-Defamation League: [http://www.adl.org](http://www.adl.org)

Website of the Southern Poverty Law Center: [https://www.splcenter.org](https://www.splcenter.org)

Get Involved


**CPP Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists**: ASI club that’s also affiliated with the national Society of Professional Journalists organization which spotlights First Amendment issues and guides ethics of the news profession. CPP chapter organizes guest speakers, film viewings, social and networking events, and discussions on news and public affairs.

Useful Organizations and Websites


[The News Literacy Project](http://www.newsliteracyproject.org): Education org focused on helping educators and journalists help students learn to distinguish facts from fiction.


[Project Vote Smart](http://www.vote-smart.org): Nonprofit and nonpartisan org that provides information for voters to make informed decisions regarding campaigns, candidates, and policy issues.

[Engaging News Project](http://www.engagingnews.org): Org affiliated with the University of Texas-Austin with mission to help citizens understand the news and provide tools for new outlets to better connect with its audiences.

[Poynter Institute](http://www.poynter.org): Global force in enhancing journalism and democracy.

[National Association for Media Literacy Education](http://www.media-literacy.org): Nonprofit org promoting emphasis on media literacy in education.

[Neiman Lab](http://www.neimanlab.org): Org grappling with the challenges and future of journalism

[Washington Post Fact Checker](http://www.washingtonpost.com/fact-checking): Up to date fact-checking of political elites

[Washington Post Real-Time Tweet Fact Checker](https://twitter.com/washingtonpost): Instructions for how to install the browser extension for real time fact checking of tweets.

[Big Media Companies](http://www.bigmediacompanies.com): NPR tool for improving media literacy and understanding of media ownership
Red feed, blue feed: An interactive Wall Street Journal graphic that helps public understand political bias on our social media news feeds.

News Engagement Day: A media literacy and news awareness initiative through AEJMC: Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication.

An Incomplete List of Courses to Take:

- COM 101: Survey of Mass Communication,
- COM 270: Media, Politics, Sex, and Violence;
- COM 325 Persuasion;
- COM 413: Public Opinion, Propaganda, and the Mass Media;
- COM 425 Political Economy of Mass Media;
- COM 448: Media Criticism;
- PLS 382: Politics, Policy, and Pop Culture
- ENG 212: American Literature II
- ENG 456: 20th C. American Literature

All materials and links collected here bear with them the limitations of the authors. This is not a definitive guide and is open to appropriate skepticism and critique.