

## **SoVT Get on Board Policies: Civility Expectations**

This class is a community of adult learners. The subject matter of the course means that much of the learning will be done through conversation and discussion. Throughout the course, we will depend upon each other to support and inform one another. When debating issues in class, be careful to maintain a professional demeanor and to present reasoned and balanced arguments that are supported by evidence from either the class materials, the presenter who has spoken, or from your personal experience.

The civility standard pertains to interactions both inside of the classroom and any communications that take place between class members outside of the class during the course session (such as via email, text, or on social media).

In addition, class members will be expected to interact with their Town government as part of the class (by attending a Town board meeting). We expect class members, when representing the SoVT Get on Board Program, to adhere to high standards of professionalism and civil conduct.

These expectations are especially important in Zoom/remote portions of the course, where many of the non-verbal cues that we use to interpret what a person is saying to us may not present. Therefore it is especially critical that we be mindful of how our words or written comments will be interpreted in the online environment.

Since everyone is different, everyone will have different perceptions of what is civil and uncivil behavior. If you have a concern with regards to another student or a presenter, please let the SoVT Get on Board team know right away so that we can address the concern.

It is our intention to ensure this classroom is a safe place for all members of the class cohort to voice their opinions. As class facilitators, the BDCC/SoVT Get on Board leaders (and by extension, any presenters who we have engaged to lead classes) reserve the right to ask students to take a step back and allow others discussion time if we feel that a minority of individuals are dominating the discussion.

Similarly, if class participants are not adhering to our expected community standards for professional interaction inside and outside of class (in regards to interaction with the Town or other class members), and/or have been unable to correct their behavior after a discussion, we reserve the right to ask participants to withdraw from the course.