






Respecting the Ideas of Others

People are unique and different. That is what makes us all so interesting. We have different thoughts, feelings, ideas and beliefs about many topics. It is important to understand that in a given situation not everyone is having the same thoughts as you are. This is usually because of some of the following:

-  The other person has a different life experience than you have related to the topic
-  The other person may have more information and insight into the topic than you do
-  The other person may have less information or insight into the topic than you do
-  The other person may have more interest in the topic than you do
-  The other person may have less interest in the topic than you do

Even people that you have a lot in common with may have a difference of opinion from you occasionally. This is okay. **You don't have to agree with everyone about everything; however, you should be accepting that other people have a difference of opinion about a given topic.**

If you spend time criticizing their point of view, they may become offended or upset by this. At the same time that you are trying to appreciate their point of view, they may be trying to understand why you think the way you do about the same topic or situation.

It is important to accept that someone has a different viewpoint but it does not mean that you have to compromise your own. Sometimes the best thing to say is, "Let's agree to disagree" and then change the topic.

