

March 21, 2016



### Responsibility to Manage Political Rallies

A Republican candidate for President has been noted to use language that some would say is inciting his supporters to violence during political rallies. The CBS news link (below) captures some of the recent events where protesters are sucker punched, pushed and spit upon and where the candidate states, “I’d like to punch him in the face.” “If you see someone ready to throw a tomato, knock the crap out of them. I promise you, I will pay the legal fees.” At an event in Arizona this weekend, another protester was punched and kicked to the floor.

Does a candidate have an ethical responsibility to manage his/her political rallies to avoid and resist the temptation for supporters to become violent? Are there statements that a candidate should be making, where their supporters recognize an authentic call for civility during their events?

As our nation careens down the road of a Presidential election, we hope our students can define the behaviors that cross the line or help uphold a civil debate. Teachers are encouraged to have students analyze the story provided here and determine where the core values of political liberty to speak one’s mind and social responsibility come into balance. Exposing the rationalizations that are used to slip into violence can also be a useful exercise in seeking ethical outcomes.

Link to CBS report - <http://bit.ly/CivilityorViolence>