ACCG
Annual Meeting

Civility in Governance

May 2, 2011

Dr. Daniel J. Kaufman
President
Georgia Gwinnett College
Civility in Governance?

"I'd agree with you, Leroy, but then we'd both be wrong."
George Washington’s Rules of Civility

- When in company, put not your hands on any part of the body not usually discovered.
- Sleep not when others speak, sit not when others stand, speak not when you should hold your peace, walk not when others stop.
George Washington’s Rules of Civility

- Shake not the head, feet, or legs; roll not the eyes; lift not one eyebrow higher than the other; wry not the mouth; and bedew no man’s face with your spittle....
George Washington’s Rules of Civility

• Let your conversation be without malice or envy and in all cases of passion admit reason to govern.

• If two contend together take not the part of either unconstrained; and be not obstinate in your own opinion.
George Washington’s Rules of Civility

- In disputes, be not so desirous to overcome as not to give liberty to each one to deliver his opinion, and submit to the judgment of the major part.

- Show not yourself glad at the misfortune of another though he were your enemy.
George Washington’s Rules of Civility

My Personal Favorite:

Kill no vermin as fleas, lice, & ticks etc in the sight of others; if it be on the clothes of your companions, put it off privately.
• Elected Commander of Georgia’s Militia but resigns

• Goes to Continental Congress instead, and signs Declaration of Independence
• Disagrees with leader of Elite Revolutionary Members in Georgia
• Challenged to duel with Lachlan McIntosh, May 16, 1777.
• Both men wounded but Gwinnett dies three days later. McIntosh leaves Georgia and joins staff of George Washington
Civility
In
Governance
1777 Style
Civility and Governance
Civility and Governance

The Philosophical Origins of Civility

• Epistemological—Limits of Knowledge

  John Locke

• Anthropological—Natural Law

  Declaration of Independence
I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.

Voltaire*
Civility and Leadership

THE ETIQUETTE OF DEMOCRACY
George Washington’s Rules of Civility

1. Every action done in company ought to be with some sign of respect to those that are present.