

deference

limiting my freedom so I do not offend the tastes of those around me

show courtesy and respect

Definitions: Deference n. 1: courteous submission to the opinions, wishes, or judgments of another. 2: courteous respect. 3: the quality of complying with another's desires.

The heart of deference is not offending the tastes of others. Everyone has his or her own tastes, often based on personality, culture or family background. Deference recognizes these tastes and differences and then respects them.

Recognizing tastes begins with an awareness of one's surroundings. Are others around? What would their preferences be? Is the occasion formal or casual? Business or recreational? Public or private? Each

factor is important to discover what is appropriate and what might be offensive.

Individuals possess a wide variety of tastes, preferences, family histories, and cultural backgrounds. Learn from others instead of expecting everyone to share your perspective. Learning about cultural differences can lead to a better understanding of those with whom you work. What may be offensive in one culture may not be in another.

Deference promotes harmony by setting aside one's own preference so as not to offend others. Deference can help you get along better with family members, friends, and co-workers.

"Politeness and consideration for others is like investing pennies and getting dollars back."

–Thomas Sowell

"Every action in company ought to be with some sign of respect to those present."

–George Washington

"Build your reputation by helping other people build theirs."

–Anthony J.

don't compromise what is right



Deference is not to be confused with compromise. When someone suggests an activity that would be illegal or immoral, deference holds to standards of right and wrong. The tastes of a majority do not make a wrong right. Deference respects tastes but refuses to compromise character, even if it means going "against the flow".

Some conflicts are not resolved by yielding to others. When pressured to violate moral standards, deference holds fast to what is right.

deference vs. rudeness

Deference is:

- noticing those around me.
- respecting the feelings of others
- not using offensive language.
- not playing loud music in public
- being careful how I dress.

Topeka City of Character
800 S.W. Jackson, Suite 1414
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 152
Topeka, KS 66601-0152
Phone: 785-233-3699
Fax: 785-354-1901
E-mail:
topekacityofcharacter@gmail.com



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From the executive director

What a great word of the month! Couldn't we all profit from saying less and listening more to those around us. Sometimes we are so busy having the last say, that we don't really hear that our differences could be settled by showing deference.

In these days of "shock jocks" and "cool" insults, rudeness somehow is being accepted as normal and quite amusing. My hope is that as we

reflect on the character quality of deference, we can become more considerate by noticing what may be offensive to others and choosing to avoid the offense.

Cindy Patton
Topeka City of Character Executive Director
topekacityofcharacter@gmail.com
(785)233-3699

Upcoming words of the month:

March - Compassion

April - Persuasiveness

May - Wisdom

classrooms?

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Good character is the key to success!