Liberal arts and democratic principles work together in many more ways than most people probably realize. Liberal arts are areas of study that tend to give a more general knowledge of life skills and are meant to empower individuals and help them deal with diversity in themselves and in the world. Many colleges offer education in the studies of liberal art subjects because they have proved to be helpful in many different aspects of life down the road. Democratic principles are those basic values that are needed in order to have a successful democracy. Going somewhere and receiving an education in areas of liberal arts will relate to democratic principles in life by helping people make better life decisions and improving their sense of equality.

Liberal arts aren’t like other subjects that only give knowledge in one area for one career path and are useless in all other parts of life. Liberal arts teach the skills and abilities to tackle real-life situations better than you ever thought that you could. Subjects like philosophy and psychology are considered part of the liberal arts world. Those topics aren’t just giving you the necessary knowledge to solve certain math problems or to understand a certain area of the scientific world. Those subjects dive deep into the way humans think and act and feel, and help us to better understand the parts of life we use all the time to get us through the day.

Decision making is an extremely large part of life, and understanding how we think in order to make the decisions that are best for us and others come from studying those liberal art subjects. We see this applied toward democracy when talking about citizen participation and making decisions that better the world around us. Citizen participation is an essential democratic principle ; without citizens participating there simply would be no democracy because there would be no input from the people. In order to make decisions in the democratic world that we believe would benefit us, we have to have the skills that allow us to be confident in making decisions. Those skills come from liberal arts.

Equality is a necessary democratic principle as well. Democracy emphasizes the equality of people, and embraces the fact that everyone is different. Individuals in a democratic society have to be able to understand that as well; that being different is a good thing, not a bad thing. That is where liberal arts come into play. Liberal arts strive to teach us about grasping diversity, appreciating who we are and being true to ourselves. If we can latch onto those characteristics and show them in our daily lives we can get farther in a good democracy.

Having a good democracy is important. Understanding life is important. The best way to have both of those things is through liberal arts and democratic principles. Liberal arts teach us the skills and give us the individuality necessary to be able to showcase the democratic principles that are necessary to have in order to participate in a democratic society. These two things together can improve people, government, societies, and life in general.