

Liberal Arts and Democratic principles both advocate progression. Liberals are not afraid to make a change in the world, and democracy was one of the biggest changes in recent history. It was radically based off of the idea that everyone should have 'basic human rights' at a time when the only people that enjoyed rights were noblemen and Kings. These important basic rights are protected in the First Amendment. As Americans we enjoy the freedoms of speech, the press, assembly, and the freedom to petition the government if we, the people, have grievances. These basic freedoms protect our right to think for ourselves, to question the government and to play an instrumental role in the way it is conducted. By protecting these rights, American democracy leaves space for liberal thinking, to improve and mold as we go. Democracy and liberal thinking work together to continually grow and change. In the Middle Ages, the liberal arts were the most esteemed and forward thinking concepts of the time. Since Aristotle and created rhetoric, liberal minds have been learning, growing, and teaching ideas that push the boundaries of what society believes. And through this "marketplace of ideas" the concept of a Republic was formed, which laid the foundation for democracy. Today liberal arts schools continue to mold young students into thinkers, innovators, and trailblazers. By pushing these young people into areas unexplored, it makes it possible for the United States of America and each person in the democracy to make a difference. Liberal arts has fostered democracy by creating minds like Benjamin Franklin, that weren't afraid to explore a new way that a government could be run. Progression was the way that we notice our flaws in the past and improve to make a better world in the future. Another democratic principle that liberal arts is connected to is the idea that government power should be controlled by the people of the democracy. Liberal arts throughout time has promoted the idea that people be educated. Through education and forward thinking, the voters in a democracy can make intelligent, informed decisions. By promoting knowledge, it ensures that the nation as a whole learns and grows from the ideas of not only government officials, but also the people of the republic. Democracy is fueled by liberal thinkers. I think that the strongest force in the relationship between liberal arts and democratic principles is that democracy protects those liberals who dare to innovate. Democracy is not afraid to consider changes, and the liberal arts are all about finding new ways to approach things.