The relationship between a Liberal Arts Education and democratic principles goes all the way back to the founding fathers. George Washington and John Adams believed that some sort of National College system would be important in giving all citizens the opportunity to gain a wider base of knowledge. The Idea was to be able to minimize the gap between the social classes. Thomas Jefferson also believed that a Liberal Arts Education was important so all citizens could understand the full value of their right and liberties. A Liberal Arts Education allows students to both understand how to participate in a democratic society and to mast a specific discipline as contributing member of society.

One of the most important principles of a democratic society is the participation of its citizens in the process of government. In order for people to participate in a democratic system effectively they need to be educated with a firm knowledge and understanding of a wide variety of topics. A liberal Arts Education informs students about their rights and fosters exploration into how to apply them politically and socially. Once a student has been equipped with new knowledge they will be well trained in exercising their democratic rights. As voters they will be more informed and as everyday citizens will have a better understanding of how to use their constitutional rights such as free speech and freedom of religion.

Students also learn about their social responsibility and what their role in society might be. After gathering a general base of knowledge a Liberal arts education will then help a student focus on learning a specific discipline. Learning a specific discipline can really help define what role a person may have in society. With a Liberal Arts Education graduates will be able to participate more in the economy, either through the discipline they mastered directly or indirectly as a result of the job they have which gives them the opportunity to be a consumer. People with a Liberal Arts education will also be able to help with democratization another important principle of democracy which means the spreading of democracy. When people are not well informed they may participate less which leads to power being held by those with higher education who can control the people below them. Power being controlled by a central group or person leads to a dictatorship or an authoritative state.

The Relationship between a Liberal Arts Education and democratic principles is giving power to citizens through knowledge so that they understand their rights and how to participate in a democratic system.