



CFI General Talking Points

CFI-Michigan is a Secular Community Group. We host educational lectures, discussion groups, support groups, community service, and social events for our members and the public.

Center for Inquiry is a 501(c)3 educational non-profit that has branches and programs throughout the United States and in several countries around the world.

- Programs include research, education, advocacy, outreach, & social services.
- CFI does not oppose the free exercise of religion or rights of believers. We're not trying to "get rid of religion"... but the "public square" should be free of religious influence.

We want to let nonreligious people in the community know that they are not alone.

It is possible to live a happy and fulfilling life without religion. Millions of Americans do so.

- We're educating people about what nonreligious people really believe & working to end the unjustified prejudice towards them.
- Most everyone knows someone who is nonreligious, whether or not they know it.
- Giving up religion, doesn't mean you have to give up love, hope, and caring, too.
- "Are you trying to convert people?" No. People must reach their own conclusions.

Do you have to be a member to attend events? NO, all of our events are open to the public.

Do you have to be "Secular" or non-religious to attend? No, Individuals from ALL religious/political/social backgrounds are welcome at our events, but most attendees and members are not religious.

Secular Constituency in the United States

According to new 2018 General Social Survey (GSS) (<http://gss.norc.org/>) those of "no religion" (23.1%) are statistically the same size as Catholics (23%) and Evangelical Protestants (22.8%) (see graph on "Secular Constituency" sheet).

Pew Religious Landscape Study Statistics (2014)

- "Unaffiliated"/"Nones" = 22.8% of U.S. Population.
 - o 7% are Atheist/Agnostic with 3% = Atheist and 4% = Agnostic
 - o 15.8% = "Nothing in Particular."
 - o Within the "NiP" group 8.8% say Religion isn't important.
- **"Unaffiliated" citizens now outnumber citizens from ALL Non-Christian Faiths Combined nearly 4:1!**
 - o Non-Christian = 5.9%, Jewish = 1.9%, Muslim = .9%, Buddhist = .7%, Hindu = .7%)
- Statistics about the growth of the "nones" are available at: www.livingwithoutreligion.org.
- 2014 Pew Religious Landscape <http://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/>