This text is concerned with how young people develop their civic attitudes and behaviors toward their political system. Researchers in social science are concerned about the potential future of the American democracy and the decline in the quality of democratic citizenship as well as political participation. Theories of deliberative democracy may help explain why young people are consistently less interested in political participation and also provide a heuristic model for improvement. Using structural equation modeling, this study tests whether the relationship between civic education and political participation is direct or mediated by discursive variables and detects how such a mediating process might operate.