Question: What are the advantages and disadvantages of ancient rhetoric?

Quotation:

“The belief that opinions belong to individuals may explain why Americans seem reluctant to challenge one another’s opinions. To challenge a person’s opinion is to denigrate that person’s character, to imply that if he or she holds an unexamined or stupid or silly opinion. He or she is an unthinking or stupid or silly person. Ancient teachers of rhetoric would find fault with this on three grounds. First, they would object that there is no such thing as “just your opinion.” Second, they would object to the implication that opinions aren’t important. they would argue that opinions can be changed. The point of rhetoric, after all, is to change opinions.”

(From Ancient Rhetoric, Page 9)

Comment:

I like this part because it generally concludes the point of ancient rhetoric. They don’t directly connect opinions to personal characters, which means they believe they can persuade other people and change their opinions. I think it still works nowadays. It tells us that we can try to use communication skills to talk to others instead of believing that they won’t change their mind. We should use rhetoric to share our ideas in learning and working environment.