

Dialogue and Debate

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 - Dialogue is collaborative: multiple sides work toward shared understanding.
 - Debate is oppositional: two opposing sides try to prove each other wrong.

- 2
 - In dialogue, one listens to understand, to make meaning, and to find common ground.
 - In debate, one listens to find flaws, to spot differences, and to counter arguments.

- 3
 - Dialogue enlarges and possibly changes a participant's point of view.
 - Debate affirms a participant's point of view.

- 4
 - Dialogue reveals assumptions for examination and reevaluation.
 - Debate defends assumptions as truth.

- 5
 - Dialogue creates an open-minded attitude: openness to being wrong and an openness to change.
 - Debate creates a close-minded attitude, a determination to be right.

- 6
 - In dialogue, one submits one's best thinking, expecting that other people's reflections will help improve it rather than threaten it.
 - In debate, one submits one's best thinking and defends it against challenge to show that it is right.

- 7
 - Dialogue calls for temporarily suspending one's beliefs.
 - Debate calls for investing wholeheartedly in one's beliefs.

- 8
 - In dialogue, one searches for strengths in all positions.
 - In debate, one searches for weaknesses in the other position.

- 9
 - Dialogue respects all the other participants and seeks not to alienate or offend.
 - Debate rebuts contrary positions and may belittle or deprecate other participants.

- 10
 - Dialogue assumes that many people have pieces of answers and that cooperation can lead to a greater understanding.
 - Debate assumes a single right answer that somebody already has.

- 11
 - Dialogue remains open-ended.
 - Debate demands a conclusion.