

Dialogue (aka Civil Conversation)

Dialogue is not

- NOT a debate looking to score points.
- NOT a random conversation.
- NOT about getting to a decision or agreement.
- NOT even about seeking common understanding.
- **Especially NOT about convincing “others”.**

Dialogue is

- Guided, intentional *exchange*.
- About gaining from *shared* experience.
- Opportunity to *learn* from others.
- Way to test your own assumptions and opinions.
- Way to *develop & show empathy* for those with different point of view.
- Much more about *listening* than speaking

Specific Guidelines

- Only one person at a time will talk when called upon.
- Do not interrupt; try hard to *listen*.
- Speak from *personal* (not group) perspective
- **Be brief**; raise one issue or make one point at a time.
- Address comments to group.
 - **Deal with issues** and not individuals.
- Express yourself with *interest, caring and humility*.
- If disagree, speak from **“I” perspective**,
 - Not “you” perspective which may feel accusatory.
- Maintain **confidentiality** of what is said.
- Suggest designate a *moderator* who will intervene as necessary