



Visions & Dreams of Building Peace

*"Your young people will see visions, and your elders will dream dreams."
-- Joel 2:28 | Acts 2:17*

The Difference Between Debate and Dialogue

You can build peace and build understanding by moving toward dialogue and away from debate.

Think of a time recently when you have experienced some conflict with a workmate, family member, neighbor, or member of your faith community. With a partner or group, review the columns on the back of this handout, looking at the difference between "debate" and "dialogue."

Where do you see your recent conflict reflected? Is it more like one side, more like the other, or a mix of both?

Tell your partner or the group each other the story of your conflict, especially reflecting on your own behavior. Try to identify when your actions looked more like debate and when they looked more like dialogue.

Choose one skill from the Dialogue column that you would like to use the next time you find yourself in conflict with someone.



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Thousands of churches and community groups will pray and act for peace as part of Peace Day 2014. Thank you for building peace and reducing violence on September 21, 2014.



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The Difference Between Debate and Dialogue

Debate...	Dialogue...
is oppositional: two sides oppose each other and attempt to prove each other wrong.	is collaborative: two sides or more sides work together towards common understanding.
has winning as the goal.	has finding common ground as the goal.
lets one side listen to the other side in order to find flaws and to counter its arguments.	lets one side listen to the other side in order to understand.
defends assumptions as the truth.	reveals assumptions for reevaluation.
causes critique of the other position.	causes introspection of one's own position.
defends one's own positions as the best solution and excludes other solutions.	opens the possibility of reaching a better solution than any of the original solutions.
creates a closed minded-attitude, a determination to be right.	creates an open-minded attitude, an openness to being wrong and an openness to change.
prompts a search for glaring differences	prompts a search for basic agreements.
involves a countering of the other position without focusing on feelings or relationship and often belittles or deprecates the other person.	involves a real concern for the other person and does not seek to alienate or offend.

Source: <http://clinton2.nara.gov/Initiatives/OneAmerica/a2.html>



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