

Moving from debate to deliberation.

Typically, political discussion is debate. The aim is to persuade other people to one's own position. It's a win/lose situation where no-one is asked to change their views and it can end up with people talking over each other.

In dialogue we share understandings by listening to each other. We build relationships and trust through being respectful and thoughtful about how we talk with each other.

In deliberation, we are in dialogue with each other and trying to find a position that we can all agree on, or at least consent to; "I can live with that". Deliberation isn't just about agreeing - there should be disagreement and challenge along the way! What is important is that we avoid trying to win an argument for "me". We are trying to find a win for all of us.

	Debate	Dialogue and deliberation
The question is:	Decided by the organisers of the debate.	Part of what we are discussing.
The result I want is:	I defeat your argument, so I win and you lose.	Finding positions that we are all happy with (or at least can consent to).
When I am listening:	I prepare my next go ("People do not listen, they reload.") and look for an opportunity to interrupt.	I listen in order to understand your point of view and look for points I agree with.
When I am speaking:	I will pick the holes in your argument and say that "you're wrong because..." without shifting my view.	I will talk about the evidence and my viewpoint, say "I don't agree with that idea because..." and propose solutions.
Their views:	I dismiss other views because I'm right.	I consider different views, because I might be wrong.
Our exchanges feel like:	A battle between two sides.	A dance between many points of view.
What do we value	Being competitive, "the winner takes it all".	Being cooperative, "we are stronger together".
A simple example...	"We all want to get the apple from the tree but your idea of standing on a chair is stupid! Where are we going to get a chair in the woods?"	"I liked the idea of using the catapult but yeah, it might harm the apple. So ok, we need something to stand on. Getting a chair will take a long time. How about that rock over there?"