

COMPARISON OF DIALOGUE AND DEBATE

Dialogue is collaborative: two or more sides work together toward common understanding.

Debate is oppositional: two sides oppose each other and each attempts to prove its case.

In dialogue, learning is the goal.

In debate, winning is the goal.

In dialogue, one listens to others in order to understand and find meaning.

In debate, one listens to others in order to find flaws and to counter their arguments.

Dialogue enlarges and possibly changes a participant's point of view.

Debate presents an unchanging point of view.

Dialogue encourages introspection on one's own position.

Debate focuses on critique of the other's position.

In dialogue, one submits one's best thinking, knowing that other people's reflections will help improve it rather than destroy it.

In debate, one submits one's best thinking and defends it against challenge.

In dialogue, one searches for strengths in the other positions.

In debate, one searches for flaws and weaknesses in the other positions.

Dialogue involves a concern for the other person and seeks to not alienate or offend.

Debate involves a countering of the other position without focusing on feelings or relationship.