

## Debate, Dialogue, Empathetic Discourse and Integral Empathy

DEBATE	DIALOGUE	EMPATHETIC DISCOURSE	INTEGRAL EMPATHY
❖ Assuming that there is a right answer, and you have it.	❖ Assuming that many people have pieces of the answer and that together they craft a new solution.	❖ Avoiding dividing the world into problems and solutions (Q&A), recognize that each individual has unique perspectives on all aspects of life and enjoy the complexity.	❖ No objective problem is “fixable” by objective means alone.
❖ Combative: participants attempt to prove the other side wrong.	❖ Collaborative: participants work together toward common understanding.	❖ Inclusive: participants acknowledge their diversity, the importance of those who are absent, and seek a multiplicity of approaches.	❖ No problem can be separated from the people related to it.
❖ About winning.	❖ About exploring common ground.	❖ About exploring diversity: Aristotle said that Genius is the ability to make distinctions <i>and</i> connections. Effective communication does both repeatedly and continuously.	❖ Objectifying disempowers all people both inside and out of government, enslaving them to “rules of equity” that control all current “solutions.”
❖ Listening to find flaws and make counter-arguments.	❖ Listening to understand, find meaning and agreement.	❖ Listening to discover and experience the self and each other, to create space for diverse views and to find community in spite of the absence of agreement.	❖ Failure of engagement itself is a more important problem that needs solving than disagreement about how to solve the problem.
❖ Defending assumptions as truth.	❖ Revealing assumptions for re-evaluation.	❖ Replacing assumptions with personal relations. Personally connecting, essence to essence, accepting and holding antithesis within, using it to animate the essential personal connection.	❖ Real, subjective, engagement makes all else, including solving objective problems, possible.
❖ Critiquing the other side’s position.	❖ Re-examining all positions.	❖ Give up, or moderate on the way to giving up, all positions. Resonate, focus and balance among the personal energies created. Savor the resonance.	❖ Institutions that promote and support personal engagement (such as empowering parents as partners in schools) create real, significant engagement.
❖ Defending one’s own views against those of others.	❖ Admitting that others’ thinking can improve on one’s own.	❖ Acknowledge that other’s feelings bring pleasure. Accept that pleasure. Embrace the thoughts of self and others as imperfect expressions of feelings released by effective communication.	❖ In general people who are institutionally equal, and must work together, tend to go beyond constraints of ideology naturally and organize to solve problems.
❖ Searching for flaws and weaknesses in other positions.	❖ Searching for strengths and value in others’ positions.	❖ Begin with the realization that others are strong and valuable, work with each and all others for space to express this strength and value and hold each expression as hallowed.	❖ People connected will embrace an integrated, Transpartisan view and feel they have gotten a satisfying loaf.
❖ Seeking a conclusion or vote that ratifies your position.	❖ Discovering new options, not seeking closure.	❖ Seek emotional closure creating openings for new encounters. Effective communication creates webs of relationship that embrace diversity, including antithesis, as irreplaceably necessary. Trust, care, love, hope grow <i>from</i> reducing the pain of openness and grow <i>toward</i> the pleasure of connection.	❖ Engagement—through empowerment—provides the most important gift.

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