

Blue Bells Model School  
Udbhav - Ek Nayi Soch  
Global North- South Dialogue  
Background Guide



Is it dialogue, discussion, or is it debate? There is a difference, and each has its value. Do you know the difference? Would you recognize dialogue if you heard it in your workplace?

To guide you through this question, let's distinguish dialogue from the other common forms of communication—debate and discussion first.

**Debate** is combative and seeks to be victorious; it wants to express itself and say it is better than you. Discussion can be described as debate trying to play nice. Much like debate, it is interested in advocating its viewpoints and challenging those of others.

**Dialogue**, on the other hand, seeks to find a shared connection. It is not concerned with winning or losing; rather, it aspires to listen more deeply, understand more fully, and build a collective perspective.

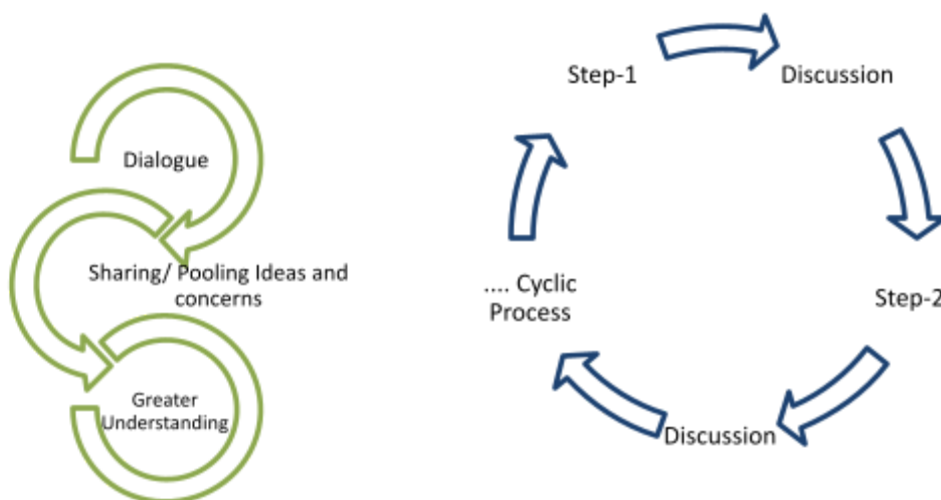
When the diversity of personality and opinion create moments of conflict and tension, dialogue steps in and mediates the conversation back to a renewed sense of connection.

Four principles of effective workplace dialogue:

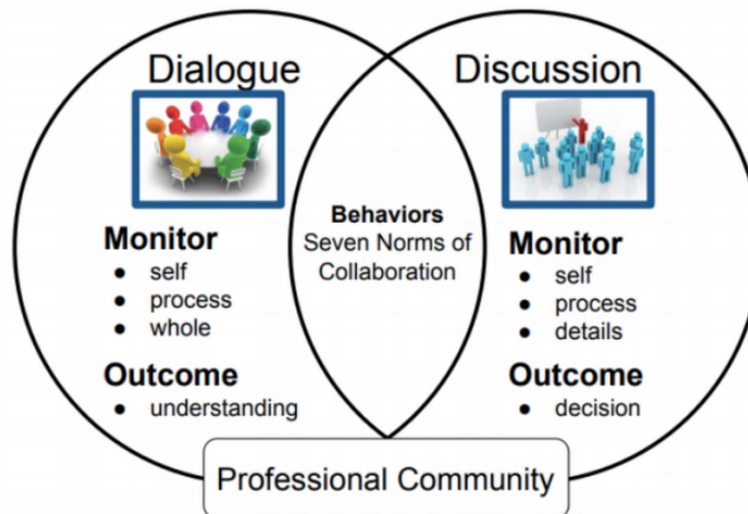
1. Suspend judgment
2. Listen
3. Inquire
4. Explore assumptions

When we **suspend our judgment**, we temporarily silence our thoughts and open our capacity to engage as **listeners**. Greater inquiry into others' viewpoints helps us better understand our colleagues and adopt new ways of thinking. When we explore our assumptions, we encounter unchallenged ideas, unchecked biases, and thought patterns that influence and possibly inhibit our workplace engagement. Dialogue is also, however, a very challenging undertaking. Becoming aware of personal assumptions is tough work. It places us to measure the consistency between our words and our actions and realize that their alignment may not be as linear as we believe. Inevitably, the practice of dialogue asks us to consider that our opinions are not always correct and that others may have more effective methods for approaching situations. Doing this is neither natural nor cathartic, but growth is very rewarding.

### Dialogue is better than Discussion



## Ways of Talking



The North-South Dialogue refers to the process through which the developing and newly independent nations of the "third world," predominantly in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, engaged the industrialized countries of North America and Western Europe in negotiations over changes to the international economic system during the 1970s. The term "North-South Dialogue" was used to distinguish this dynamic from the East-West conflict of the Cold War, and to stress the point that development issues were just as pressing as the ideological conflict between communists and capitalists. Several factors increased the willingness of the industrialized nations to negotiate.

The United Nations has also established its role in diminishing the divide between North and South through the Millennium Development Goals, all of which were to be achieved by 2015 or we can say the Global North represent the economically developed societies of Europe, North America, Australia, Israel, South Africa, amongst others, the Global South represents the economically backward countries of Africa, India, China, Brazil, Mexico amongst others. While Global North countries are wealthy, technologically advanced, politically stable and aging as their societies tend towards zero population growth the opposite is the case with Global South countries. While Global South countries are agrarian based, dependent economically and politically on the Global North, the Global North has continued to dominate and direct the global south in international trade and politics.

With the "Global North" described as more developed between the two, there is an emphasis on long-term issues like the ozone, green energy and the ocean environment.

In contrast, the "Global South," a developing section of the globe, is focused on local and immediate changes, such as reducing illiteracy and alleviating poverty. Typically, the "Global South" only looks at the environment in relation to their own daily lives- calling for change only when related to health or productivity, like dirty water or desertification.

Watch this [video](#) for more information.