<table>
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<th>COMPARING DEBATE, DISCUSSION AND DIALOGUE*</th>
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| **DEBATE**  
*“Might is right”*  
Debate is oppositional: two sides oppose each other and attempt to prove each other wrong. Debate assumes that there is a right answer and that someone has it. In debate, personal experience is secondary to a forceful opinion.  
Debate creates closed-minded attitude, a determination to be right. Individuals are considered to be autonomous and judged on individual intellectual might.  
In debate, one submits one’s best thinking and defends it against challenge to show that it is right. Debate calls for investing wholeheartedly in one’s beliefs. Debate defends assumptions as truth. Debate affirms a participant’s own point of view.  
Debate involves a countering of the other position without focusing on feelings or relationship and often belittles or deprecates the other person.  
In debate, winning is the goal. Debate implies a conclusion. | **DISCUSSION**  
*“The noisier, the smarter”*  
Discussion tends to contribute to the formation of abstract notion of community. In discussion, personal experience and actual content are often seen as separate.  
Discussions often assume an “equal playing field” with little or no attention to identity, status and power.  
In discussion, emotional responses may be present but are seldom named and may be unwelcome. Discussion is centered on content not affect related to content.  
In discussion, the more perspectives voiced, the better. Discussion can be open or close-ended. | **DIALOGUE**  
*“Connectivity for community”*  
Dialogue is collaborative: two or more sides work together toward common understanding. In dialogue, personal experience is a key avenue for self-awareness and political understanding.  
In dialogue (esp. IGD) exploring identities and differences are key elements in both the process and the content of the exchange.  
In dialogue, emotions help deepen understanding of personal, group and intergroup relationship issues. Dialogue works to uncover confusion, contradictions and paradoxes with an aim to deepen understanding.  
Dialogue remains open-ended. In dialogue, finding common ground is the goal. |


Day 1: July 23, 2008