Six Principles for Deliberation

1. Winning is Not the Goal: The goal of debate is to win. The goal of deliberation is to improve our understanding of the issue and each other.

2. Involve all Stakeholders and Embrace Diversity: Enrich the conversation by including a diverse range of voices. Demonstrate that the whole community is welcome and needed.

3. Critique Your Own Position: Enter dialogue with an openness to being wrong and a willingness to change your mind. Try to suspend your beliefs, temporarily, so that you can actively listen and consider the arguments of others.

4. Find Common Ground: Dialogue is a collaborative process with two or more sides working together toward common understanding. Search for basic points of agreement among all sides.

5. Listen to Understand: Do not listen for the flaws in other arguments. Instead, listen to find meaning and agreement in the perspectives of others.

6. Accept Disagreement: Deliberation does not necessitate a tidy conclusion. View differences in opinion as enrichment, rather than as problems to be solved. Deliberation is an open-ended mode of communication that strengthens community ties, and opens possibilities for enriched action; it does not require total agreement by stakeholders.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY


