

Civil Dialogue

Civil dialogue is a process of discussion to promote respectful and constructive communication. It becomes key in discussing controversial topics that can become intense quickly, as it fosters mutual respect and encourages empathy toward different viewpoints. This Classroom Catalog entry explores civil dialogue in the Utah Constitutional Convention debates about women's suffrage.

Essential Question

Why is civil dialogue essential to our self-government?

Vocabulary

Civil Dialogue— Respectful and thoughtful conversation, especially about tough or controversial topics. It helps people listen, understand different views, and show empathy.

Open-mindedness— Being willing to listen to and consider new ideas and different points of view.

Listening— Paying attention to both words and body language to understand what someone is saying and respond thoughtfully.

Collaborating— Working together to reach a common goal, even when people have different ideas or opinions.

Advocating— Speaking up or taking action to support a cause, idea, or person you believe in. It involves both communication and effort.

Suffrage— The right to vote, especially in political elections. Suffrage comes from the Latin word *suffragium*, meaning “vote.”