Civil Dialogue

Lesson Support for Material available on The Quill Project



Essential Question

Why is civil dialogue essential to our self-government?



Civil dialogue is respectful and thoughtful conversation, especially about tough or controversial topics. It helps people to listen, understand different views, and show empathy. This Classroom Catalog entry explores civil dialogue in the Utah Constitutional Convention debates about women's suffrage.

Vocabulary

- 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."

1787 Convention and Dialogue

- Open discussion
- Structured debate
- Long-term collaboration



Washington as Statesman at the Constitutional Convention, 1856 Oil on canvas by Junius Brutus Steams. Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

This is our Convention

- You are the delegates
- I am the chairman
- Normally, delegates in Convention get 10 minutes of speaking time, but you will each get 10-20 seconds of speaking time.
- If you go over, your comments will be ruled out of order by the chairperson.
- Here is the question...

Is water wet?

Utah Convention and Civil Dialogue

- Modeled after 1787 Constitutional Convention
- Rules for discussion across disagreements
- Suffrage was a major point of disagreement

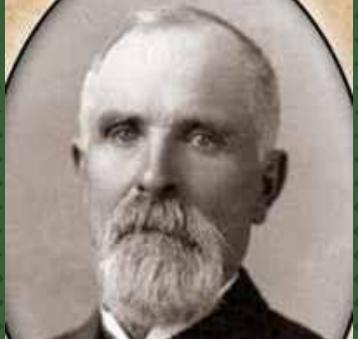
Framble. Grateful to Almighty God for life and liberty, we, the people of Utah, in order to secure and perpetude the principles of free government, do ordain and establish Constitution. Article 1. Declaration of Rights . Section 1. All men have the inherent and inali-- inable right to enjoy and defend their lives and liberties ; to acquire, powers and protect property; to worship according to the dictates of their consciences ; to assemble peace

Image of the Utah State Constitution, Utah Archives and Records Service.

Points of Debate from

To sister Rusa - 13 to Roberto

Brigham Henry Roberts Utah History Encyclopedia



John Riggs Murdock Wilford Woodruff Papers



John Foy Chidester Find a Grave



Class Discussion

- 1. How did dialogue in the Utah suffrage debates lead to women getting the vote?
- 2. How do disagreement and collaboration go hand in hand?
- 3. In what ways can we individually foster civil dialogue?

LIVE CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES