

Discussion and Dialogue

It might be useful to establish a distinction between two primary types of communication among people: **discussion** and **dialogue**.

The ultimate purpose of **discussion** is **to win a game**, i.e., to have one's view accepted by a group, irrespective of other group members' compliance with the view.

By contrast, the original meaning of **dialogue** - from the Greek "dia" which means "through", and "logos" which means word, or meaning - suggests a **free flow of meaning between people**, in the sense of a stream that flows between two banks.

In dialogue, thus, people access a larger "**pool of common meaning**", which cannot be accessed individually. This larger pool of common meaning, is fundamental in revealing people's **assumptions**, expanding our **understanding** and reaching sound **agreements**.

Conflict management is based in transforming conflicts in meaningful dialogue for all involved actors .