



YOUTH ACTIVISM FOR
LEBANESE ACCOUNTABILITY



Module Four: Debate & Dialogue

Lesson 1: Power of Diverse Voices and Perspectives




Power of Diverse Voices and Perspectives



Lesson Objective: To learn the importance and impact having a diversity of voices and perspectives can bring to effective arguments, debates, and dialogues

Some of what we will discuss in this lesson includes:

- How diversity expands and deepens democratic engagement;
 - Power relationships;
 - Intersectionality;
 - Intentionality;
 - Building Agency;
 - Creating an enabling environment and a safe space for all voices; and
 - Building inclusive partnerships, networks and coalitions
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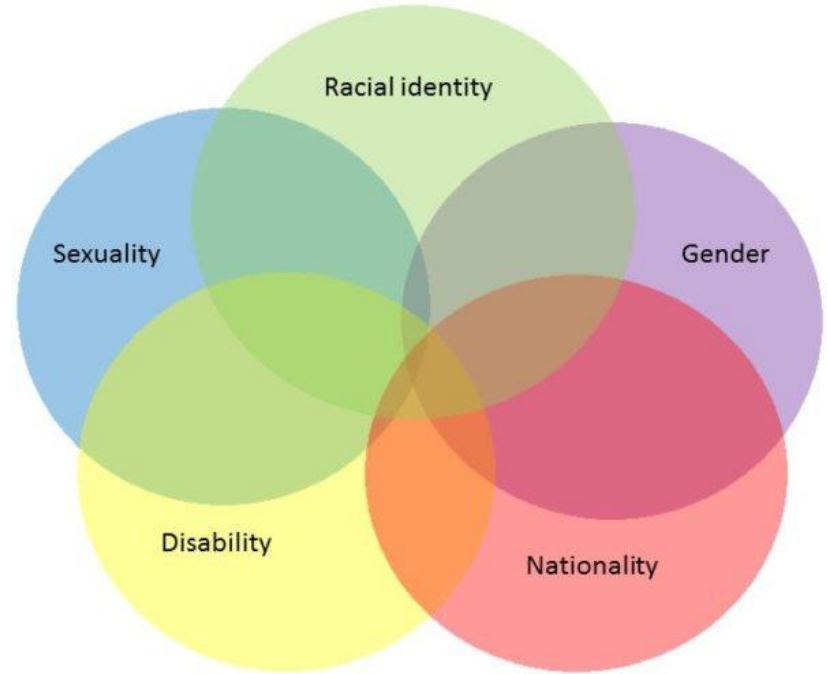
Diversity and Inclusion – Why Should We Care?

- Why is this important?
- Why should we strive to be inclusive?
- How can it help us push our own goals and issues forward?



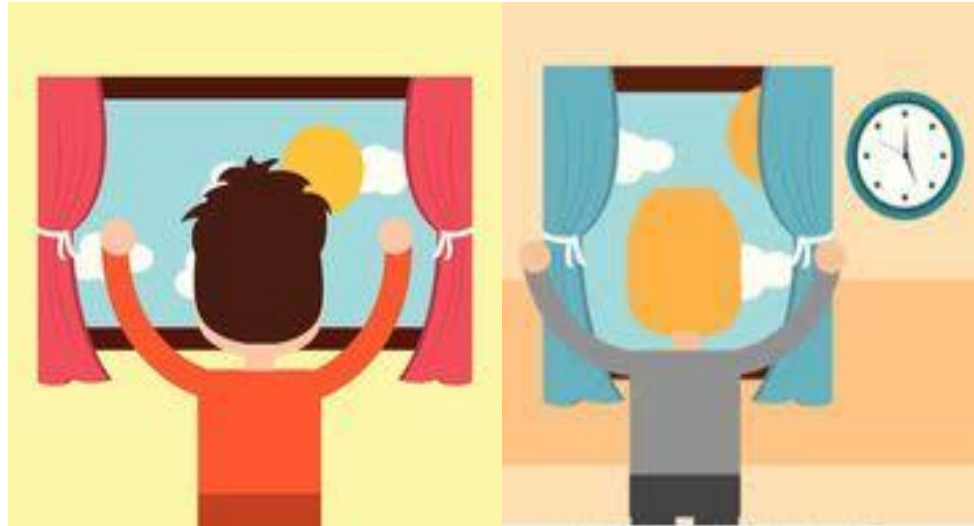
Intersectionality

- Interconnected nature of social categorizations
- Overlapping and interdependent systems
- Identity markers independently of each other



Intentionality

- Being deliberate in our choices
- Being purposeful
- Making the decision to consciously do something




Building Agency



Agency is the capacity of individuals to **act independently** and to **make** their own free choices.

How might this be relevant to the discussion in the concepts that we have been learning across the modules and lessons?



Enabling Environments and Safe Spaces



Some discussion questions:

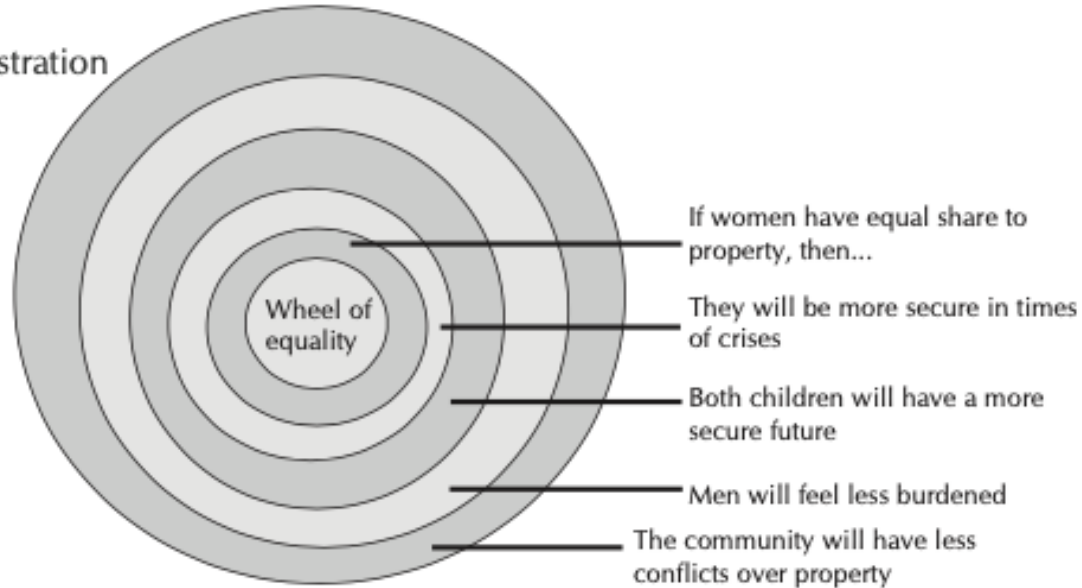
- What is the environment like for women and youth and other traditionally underrepresented people to participate in civic or political life in Lebanon?
- Can they speak up and engage politicians without fear of harassment or retribution?
- Are they afforded the same level of respect as men?
- Why might safe spaces for women, youth or others to express their opinions and provide their perspectives be important?
- How can activists and organizations help create these safe spaces?
- How does that help to change the enabling environment for the better?

Building Inclusive Partnerships, Networks and Coalitions

- Create safe spaces by engaging and partnering with individuals, activists and organizations that are represented and led by marginalized groups
- Inclusive partnerships can expand out coalitions and allyships
- Inclusive partnerships can help us all mutually amplify our voices, our arguments and our issues.
- Inclusion provides additional perspectives and evidence
- Inclusion brings more people together on issues.

Exercise: Wheel of Equality

Illustration





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Module Four: Debate & Dialogue

Lesson 2: Debate, Dialogue, and Negotiation





Debate, Dialogue, and Negotiation

Lesson Objective: To understand three different methods of bringing about change on an issue of concern

Some of what we will discuss in this lesson includes:


- Debate;
- Dialogue;
- Negotiation;
- When to use which one; and
- What are the pros and cons of each



Debate




Debate is...

- when you have a formal discussion with at least one other person on a topic.
 - a discussion with specific rules and formats.
 - when a participant has a different perspective, often in competition or opposition to another.
 - when one side 'wins' against the other opposing viewpoint.
 - often what is done on the floor of parliament when a law is being discussed
- 

Dialogue




Dialogue is...

- when you have a formal or informal discussion about an issue(s)
 - similar to a roundtable discussion with no specific format
 - when participants come together to hear other perspectives and learn what others think.
 - a discussion to hear other perspectives, with the understanding that you may change your own thinking by the end of the session.
 - An opportunity to learn something new!
- 

Negotiation



Negotiation is...

- when you engage in a discussion in order to come to an agreement.
 - when participants come to the table to hear other perspectives, but understand they may need to compromise in order to reach the agreement.
 - when each side may not get all the things they want in a negotiation.
 - when participants come away with an agreement that both sides can 'live with.'
 - about compromise
 - conducted in multiple rounds in order to get to an agreement.
- 

When do you use debate, dialogue or negotiations?



Debate

Dialogue



Negotiation

What are the Pros and Cons of each?

Debate	Dialogue	Negotiation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ usually provided a dedicated time to present arguments→ outcome of debate is often determined by outside factor→ can provide everyone an opportunity to speak→ opportunity to debate facts or hard evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ an opportunity to learn new ideas or perspectives→ can be a more level 'playing field' for participants if moderated well	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ most likely to walk away from a negotiation with something you want (although maybe not 100% of what you want);
<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ can create/worsen tension between each side→ arguments can often devolve into opinions or subjective analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ not everyone may have an opportunity to speak and provide their perspective→ if not moderated well, it is easy for participants to cut off others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ You may not 'get everything you want'→ compromise will be necessary→ could be a tense environment



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Module Four: Debate & Dialogue

Lesson 3: Debate and Dialogue to Spur Change





Debate and Dialogue to Spur Change

Lesson Objective: To understand the role of constructive dialogue and debate to a democracy

In this session we will learn about using constructive dialogue to create the change our community and country are looking to achieve.



Creating Change

Can anyone describe a change that they have personally made or contributed to?

How did that change affect you? Did it have a small impact or a big one?

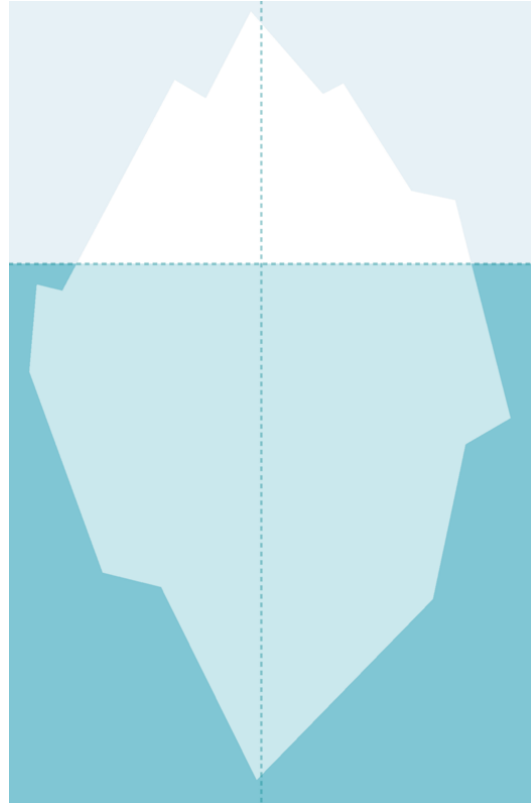


*Be the change
you wish to
see in the
world*

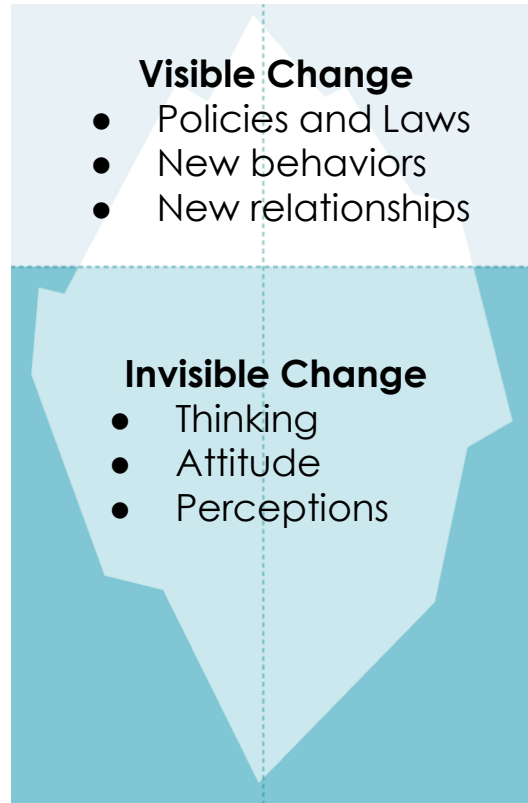
What does change look like?

- Change will look differently.
- Change can be incremental.
- Change can be historic.
- Change can be transformative.
- Change can be highly visible and also invisible at the same time.

Types of Change: The Iceberg



Types of Change: The Iceberg





How can debate contribute to change?

- Debates **can quickly win you allies** for your issues if they agree with your points, **or it can make opponents** if people disagree with you.
- Debates can **contribute to both visible and invisible change**.
- Convincing arguments made on the floor of parliament when a law is up for a vote **can be the difference in a bill passing or not**.
- The allies you gain from your debate **expand your networks and relationships** with like-minded organizations, decision makers and citizens.
- The arguments you make in your debate may begin to **change how people think and perceive an issue**.





How can dialogue contribute to change?

- Dialogues can **contribute to both visible and invisible change**.
- Dialogues provide an opportunity to **bring together people of different perspectives** who may or may not have specific ideas about the issue at hand.
- Participants in a dialogue come to **learn and hear from others**.
- Dialogues can be **transformative**. They can contribute to shifts in knowledge, attitudes and perspectives.
- Dialogues can be a place to **share stories and experiences** that can humanize issues and those that you may have at first, seen as an opponent.



Debates. Dialogue. And You.

Dialogue and Debate: The marketplace of ideas

The concept that in a society, different beliefs can freely compete with one another in an open, transparent public discourse instead of being censored by the government of some part of society.



"Just how fresh are these insights?"

Debates. Dialogue. And You.



Ten positive outcomes from citizen engagement in public deliberation:

1. **Closing the gap** between 'experts' and the public.
2. Moving from distorted, simplistic understandings to revealing and **accepting the complexity of societal challenges.**
3. Setting **higher standards for public discourse.**
4. Shifting focus from competing interests to the **common good.**
5. Strengthening the public's capacity for **reasoned decision-making.**
6. Bringing **values into deliberation and decision-making.**
7. Increasing **citizens' sense of efficacy.**
8. **Strengthening relationships** among citizens, issues, institutions and the political system.
9. Placing **responsibility for public policy** with the public.
10. Creating **opportunities for transformative learning** and systemic change.

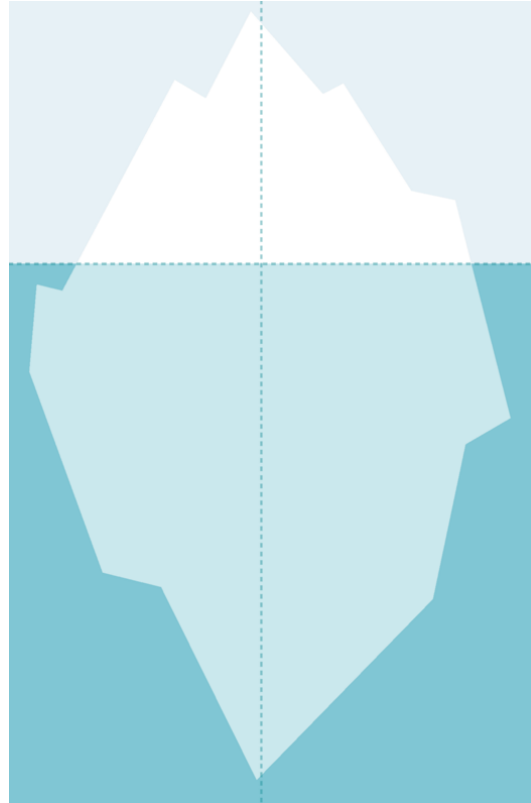


The Dialogical Moment

- The dialogic moment is when the dialogue itself, the story or the discussion shared between people creates a moment where the **TRANSFORMATION** takes place.
- **OPINIONS CHANGE** and a breakthrough - whether one as emotionally charged as forgiveness, or as simple as truly understanding another's perspective - occurs.



Exercise: What does your iceberg look like?







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Module Four: Debate & Dialogue

Lesson 4: What is Debate?

What is Debate?

Lesson Objective: To understand the mechanics of debate and persuasive arguments as a tool to bring about change.

Some of what we will discuss in this lesson includes:

- Types of debates
- Debates and democracy
- Debate formats
- Rules of debates
- Preparing for a debate
- Elements of a debate: communication, expression; argumentation and evidence; rebuttals/responses

What is Debate?

Debates are important because...

- Oral and written communication skills
- Critical thinking skills
- Research, organization, and presentation
- Public speaking
- Research and analyze problems
- Express opinions in a logical and persuasive manner
- Self-confidence
- Teamwork
- Greater tolerance and respect for difference
- Discuss contradictory ideas



Image: First presidential debate in Tunisia, 2019


Types of Debate



Formal debate:

- Is usually conducted with two participants or by a team or club.
- Is held at a specific time and place and is governed by specific rules
- The issue or topic is predetermined
- There is a designated time for speeches
- One party argues for a subject or an issue and the other argues against
- There is a judge who determines the winner and loser of the debate.

Informal debates:

- Are general ones aiming to raise awareness of a specific issue or to convey each party's point of view
 - Have less stringent rules regulating format, time, and place.
- 

Democracy and Debate



A good debater must not only study material in support of his own case, but he must also, of course, thoroughly analyze the expected arguments of his opponent. ... The give and take of debating, the testing of ideas, is essential to democracy. I wish we had a good deal more debating in our institutions than we do now.

- John F. Kennedy, former President of the United States

Debate will inevitably generate opposing views. That is healthy. It creates a constructive tension out of which bold ideas can emerge. And by trying to build consensus and an inclusive political process, governments can maintain and bolster stability. This process will help people to appreciate the full range of factors that need to be taken into account on an issue: maybe the cost is too high, maybe the environment will be damaged. And in some cases it might lead to those in authority to think again about the course they favour.

- Ambassador Peter Millet, UK Ambassador to Jordan



Debate Formats

- Part of the structure is the people involved:
 - Moderator
 - Participants (either individuals or in teams)
 - Audience and/or Judges
 - Timekeeper
- Debates also have a specific structure in terms of rules.



Preparing for Debates - The Power of Research



- The most successful debates include lots of facts, statistics and evidence. All of which should come from credible sources.
- Through your research, you will be able to **gather the information** that will help you prepare your argument.
- This research will help you **generate ideas** that can be used for your arguments and supporting statements.



Preparing for Debates - Developing Your Case

- Arguments are framed in as for/against a specific topic.
- Build a case that can address concerns and arguments from both sides of the topic.
- develop a debate case that includes your strongest arguments in order to make your case.
- Develop rebuttals.
- Rebuttal is the process of defending one's arguments against an opponent's attacks.


A strong debate case will include arguments, backed up by solid evidence, and prepared rebuttals for any counterargument your opponent may make.



Arguments and Evidence: A Winning Strategy



Arguments and **evidence** both help to:

- Convince your opponent or judge or audience
 - Justify your arguments with reasons that support them
 - Helps you present your arguments in a simple and clear manner
 - Explains how the evidence supports your statements
 - A good debater starts with a statement and then presents evidence and examples to support that statement.
 - You can present more than one piece of evidence to make sure the audience understands the idea.
- 

Elements of Debates - The Power of Words

Power of Words

- Balance of formal and colloquial language
- Humorous
- Persuasion
- Clear, vivid, and emotive language
- Neutral



Organization

- How you structure a speech is part of the message; sequence arguments
- well-organized speech should have an introduction, the main body (central idea) and a conclusion.
- speeches in debates are rarely longer than 5-6 minutes, so choose what you say wisely.

The Power of Who is Speaking





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Lesson 5: What is Dialogue

TITLE

Lesson Objective: To learn the tools and techniques for using dialogue as a tool for change


Some of what we will discuss in this lesson includes:

- Why Dialogue?
- Maximizing Dialogue for Success
- Types of Dialogues
- Steps for Success

Dialogue and Democracy



Democracy requires **deliberation**, **discussion** and **dialogue**.

- Dialogue is a democratic method aimed at resolving problems through mutual understanding and, often, compromise.
 - Dialogue can engage a variety of stakeholders to discuss issues of common concern.
- 

Why Dialogue?




- Highly effective to discuss and **push an issue** forward.
- It is a discussion to **exchange of information**.
- Dialogue as a method can **change the tone** towards cordiality.
- Dialogue as a tool can also **'level the playing field.'**

Maximizing Dialogue for Success



A few points to keep in mind before you start a dialogue process:

- Be ok with letting go of the idea that you will 'get it right the first time'
 - You may have more than one conversation
 - Dialogues are often iterative
 - Be willing to re-examine the assumptions that went into the original design decisions in the light of new information or changed circumstances
 - Be open to trying out a fresh approach
- 

Types of Dialogues

There are four broad categories of dialogues:

1. Exploration
2. Relationship Building
3. Deliberation
4. Collaborative action



Steps to Success: Organizing a Dialogue (Steps 1 & 2)

Preparation

- Outcomes
- Type
- Participants
- Agenda
- Location
- Facilitator
- Inclusion

Implementation

- Rules
- Process
- Documentat
ion

Concluding Dialogue

- Outcomes
- Next steps

Reflection & Planning

- Evaluate
- Planning
- Action

Exercise





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Module Four: Debate & Dialogue


Lesson 6: Public Speaking

Public Speaking



Lesson Objective: To understand the component parts to successful public speaking

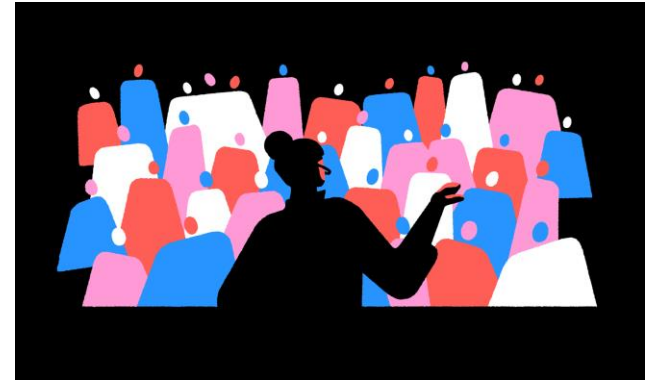
Some of what we will discuss in this lesson includes:

- Knowing your audience
 - Making ideas memorable
 - Gaining Confidence
 - Overcoming Fears
 - Your Presence
- 

Know your Audience

Why is it important to know your audience before we speak before them?

- To know the situation
- To tailor our arguments appropriately
- To know their motivation
- To research their existing position



Making Ideas Memorable

A compelling speaker...

- Draw you in with their tone of voice, their manners, or their words.
- Makes their point by telling a story.
- Weaves facts and evidence into their presentation.
- Uses simple logic that is easy to understand and remember.



Confidence

Tips to help boost your confidence before you have to speak in front of people:

- Be knowledgeable
- Think Positively
- Dress the part
- Speak slowly
- Set a small goal
- Just breathe



Overcoming Fear



Tips to help overcome the fear of speaking in public

F.E.A.R.
has two meanings:
Forget Everything and Run
OR
Face Everything and Rise
The Choice is Yours

- Use a calm tone of voice
- Practice
- Accept that you may make a mistake
- Don't memorize your speech
- Focus on one person
- Plan your hands




Your Physical Presentation Matters



While the words you use in your speech are important, they may not be as important as you think. Studies have shown that:

- 7% of any message is communicated with words.
- 38% is relayed by voice (tone, accent, volume, rhythm).
- 55% is communicated by non-verbal body language.

Just as important as the words you use, is **voice, eye contact, and body language.**



Exercise





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Module Four: Debate And Dialogue


Lesson 7: Allies and Opponents

Allies and Opponents



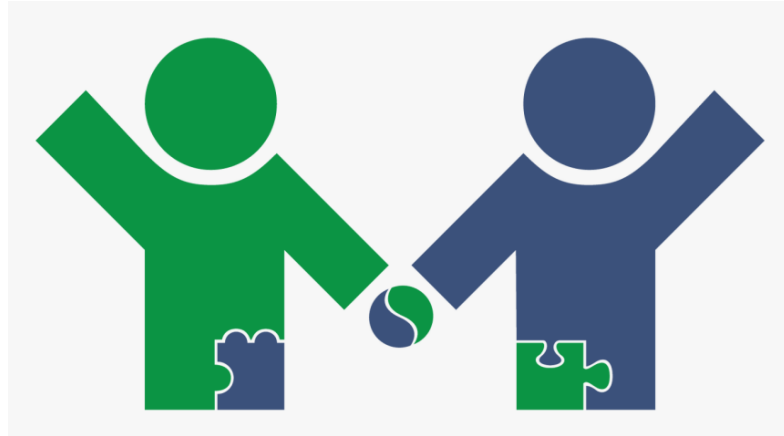
Lesson Objective: To help participants identify and understand the perspectives of different stakeholders of their issue.

Some of what we will discuss in this lesson includes:

- Identifying who may be an ally
 - Identifying who may be an opponent
- 

Allies

- What is an ally?
- Why do you want to have allies?
- How might having a diversity of voices be good as allies?



Opponents

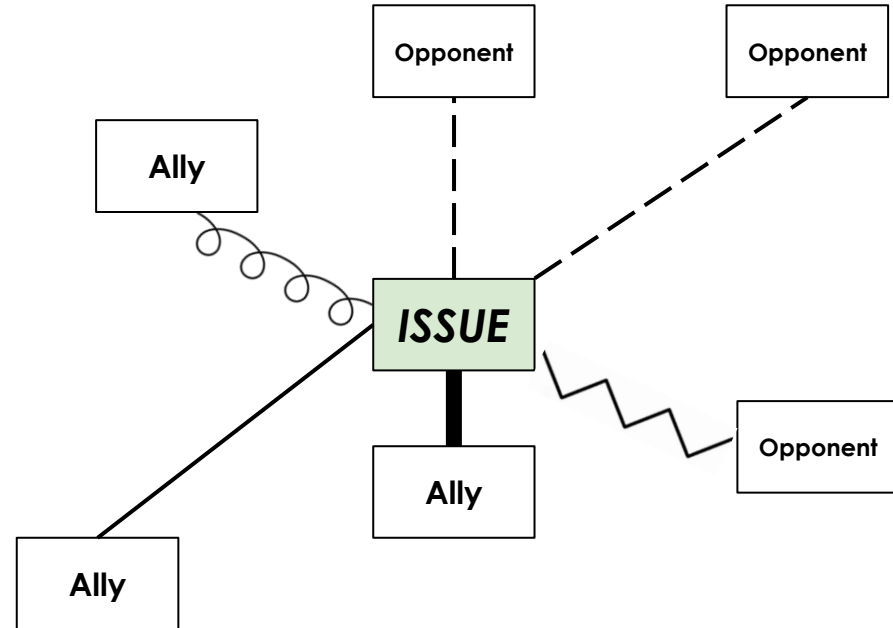
- What is an opponent?
- Why do we want to know who your opponents are?



Exercise: Stakeholder Mapping

Stakeholders...

- are people that have an interest in what you are doing
- could be allies or they may be opponents
- may be visible or invisible/hidden.
- may care about how you pursue your project.



Stakeholder Map



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Module Four: Debate and Dialogue

Lesson 8: Constructing and Defending Arguments




Constructing and Defending Arguments



Lesson Objective: To be able to build effective and defend arguments for debate and dialogue.

Some of what we will discuss in this lesson includes:

- Arguments
 - Evidence
 - Persuasion
 - Creating simple and succinct ideas
 - Building an Argument
 - Responding, Rebutting, and Refuting Arguments
- 

What is an argument?

What do we mean by the term 'argument'?

- A series of reasons, statements, or facts intended to support or establish a point of view
- A reason was given for or against a matter under discussion
- A statement intended to convince or persuade

What is the difference between an argument and a statement?

- Statements are the points you want to prove.
- They are not arguments.
- A good debater starts with a statement and then presents evidence and examples to support that statement
- Arguments need supportive statements and logic in order to be convincing

Arguments and Evidence

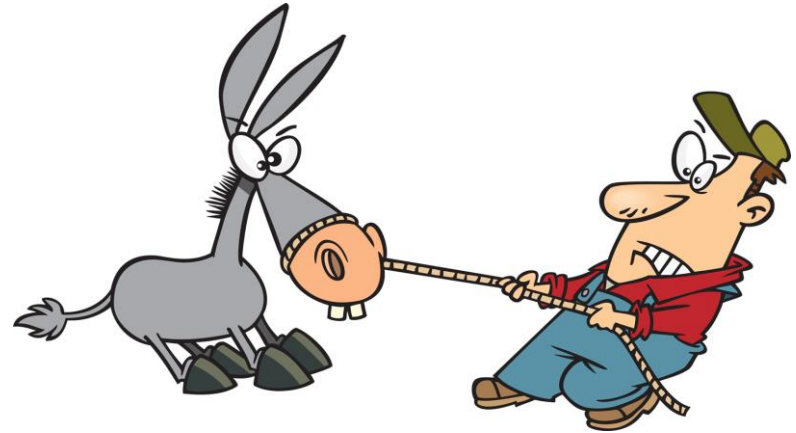
Why is evidence important?

- Evidence can provide facts to help justify an argument.
- Evidence can provide reasons to agree with an argument.
- Evidence can help educate a judge or audience.
- Evidence can provide alternative information from your opponent.




The Art of Persuasion

- **Power** → command, assertion, force, coercion, threat
- **Payment** → material incentives, reward, compensation, negotiation, exchange, bargaining, transaction
- **Persuasion** → communicating with others in a way that induces them to voluntarily think or act differently



The Art of Persuasion



- In a debate, the **tone of your voice**, the **language or words** you use, making **eye contact** all matter.
 - It is also important to determine if it is appropriate to use **formal speech** or **humor** or both as part of your approach.
 - *“The clearer you think, the clearer you can write.”*
- 



Building an Argument


The basic structure of an argument is composed of three elements: **claim, evidence, and support.**

- The **claim** is the position that a debater wants his audience to accept.
- **Evidence** is the additional information given to the audience in order to support the claim.
- **Support** refers to the logical relationship or reason that connects the evidence to the claim.



The Importance of Organization



- Organize your evidence, and arguments, and set priorities
 - Present your strongest argument first
 - Have the more important arguments at the beginning of the conversation
 - Present two or three arguments, and related evidence, during their speech
 - If debating on a team:
 - choose who delivers which arguments so everyone has a speaking role
 - leave some arguments for other speakers
 - Have new arguments or dimensions
 - The last speaker should not need to present new arguments but can offer additional evidence
- 

Refuting and Rebutting an Argument



- **Refutation** is done once the first side's arguments are presented, the other side needs to react to it in a *critical manner*. That is to provide counter-arguments.
- **Rebuttal** is the act of defending a teams' argument after it has been *refuted* is called "rebuttal."
 - In a *rebuttal* speech a debater refers both to the arguments made by their partners as well as their refutation presented by opponents.


The Importance of Listening

- **Listening is key** so that you can pick the right rebuttal or counter-argument to their positions and statements.
 - A good debater **responds by opposing the evidence**
 - **Opposing in a smart way** entails finding a new way to counter or offer a rebuttal to the other debaters' arguments and explanations
 - You can offer a **rebuttal to your opponent's statement's validity** and this is different from opposing the explanation

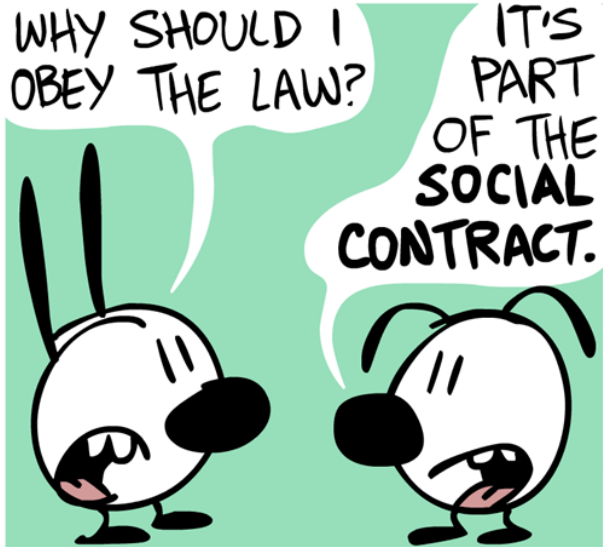


Nine Ways to Construct a Compelling Argument



1. Keep it simple
 2. Be fair to your opponent
 3. Avoid common fallacies
 4. Make your assumptions clear
 5. Rest your argument on solid foundation
 6. Use evidence your reader will believe
 7. Avoid generalizations – be specific
 8. Understand the opposing view to yours
 9. Make it easy for your opponent to change their mind.
- 

Exercise: Developing a Convincing Argument





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Module Four: Debate and Dialogue


Lesson 9: Communications and Strategic Messaging

Communications and Strategic Messaging



Lesson Objective: To identify and demonstrate effective communication skills

Some of what we will discuss in this lesson includes:

- Communication vs. Messaging
 - Listening
 - Senders and Receivers
 - Communication Strategies
- 

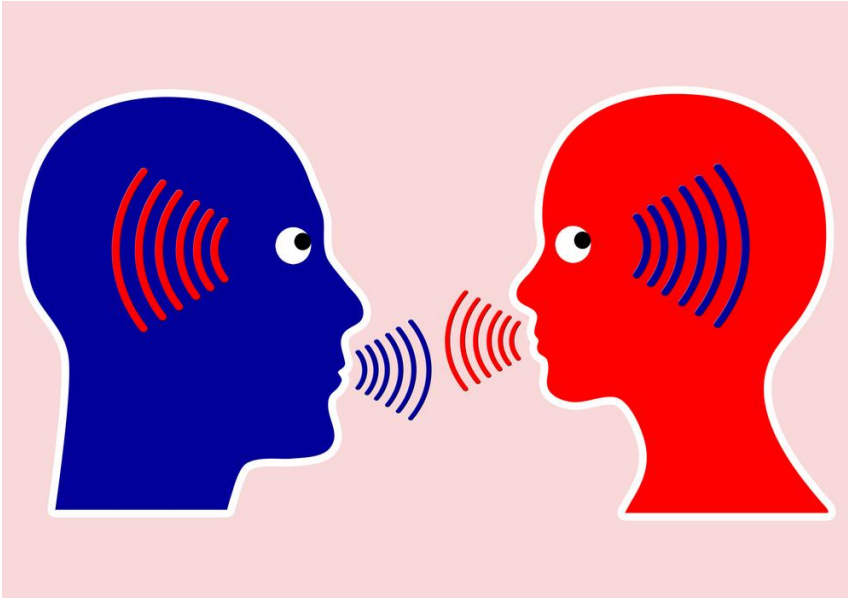
Key Terms: Communication and Messaging

Communication is the act of sending messages through channels to one or more receivers.

Messaging is a communication containing some information, news, advice, request, or the like, sent by messenger, radio, telephone, or other means.



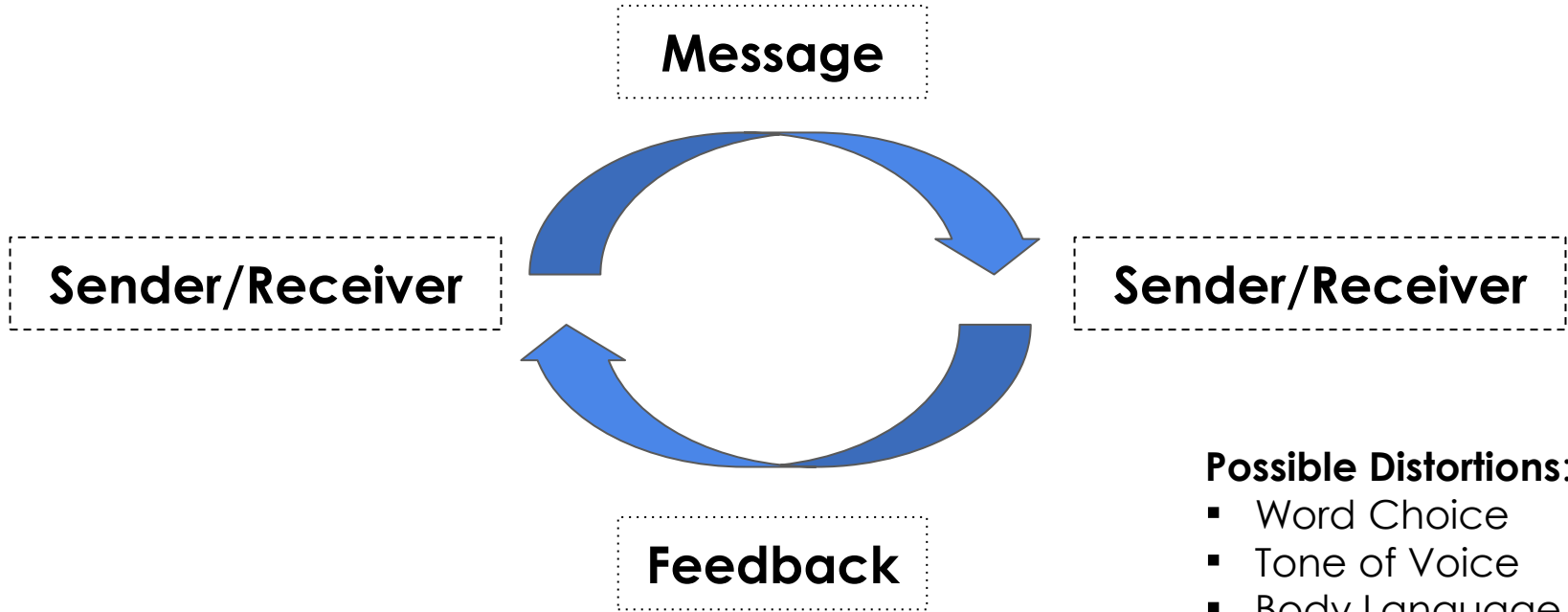
Listening



Listening, Again!

- That's because listening is *just* as important as speaking and talking.
- Listening to others helps us learn how they communicate – which then helps us develop messages and communication strategies that they will be receptive to.

Effective Communication



Possible Distortions:

- Word Choice
- Tone of Voice
- Body Language
- Levels of Interest
- Outside influencers




Quick Exercise!



Communication Strategies




- *What is your main message?*
 - *Why should people listen?*
 - *How do you tweak your messages to persuade your audience?*
 - *How might your message receivers take in your message?*
 - *How might men, women and youth send and receive messages differently?*
 - *Should your strategy differ?*
 - *What about people who are not literate or speak a different language?*
 - *What about people with disabilities?*
 - *What methods will you use to reach your audience?*
 - *Who are your best messengers?*
- 

Group Exercise: Developing a Communication Strategy



Each strategy should include answers to the following 5 questions:

1. What is your main message to this stakeholder?
 2. Why should this stakeholder listen?
 3. How do you tweak your messages to persuade this stakeholder?
 4. What methods will you use to reach your stakeholder?
 5. Who in your group are your best messengers?
- 



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Module Four: Debate and Dialogue

Lesson 10: Networks and Coalitions



Networks and Coalitions

Lesson Objective: To learn how working collectively in a network or coalition can help us achieve change

Some of what we will discuss in this lesson includes:

- Benefits of working collaboratively
- Defining networks and coalitions





Benefits of Collaboration

If you, in module two we learned that:

- *Collaboration* is the action of working with someone to produce or create something.
- *Collective action* is an action taken together by a group of people whose goal is to achieve a common objective

So how does this apply to what we are learning in this module about debates and dialogue?





Defining Networks and Coalitions

- **Networks** are the relationships that people have with each other through which **information, ideas, resources, experiences, interests, and passions are shared.**
- **Coalitions** are partnerships among distinct actors that **coordinate action in pursuit of shared goals.**

Depending on your goals – you may want to be a part of a network, coalition, or both!



Networking



Thinking about this module, networking can:

- help expand your pool of allies
- help you build bridges with key stakeholders
- expand our access to evidence
- help us share, gain and learn information
- help us access and be more inclusive of different voices

Coalitions

Thinking back to Lesson 7 about allies and opponents:

- Coalitions can be a powerful tool to strengthen and increase allies.
- Compete against opponents
- Strengthen arguments in favor of your issue
- Increase the number of voices working on, advocating for and amplifying your issue.



Benefits of Networks and Coalitions



What are some benefits of creating networks and coalitions?



Group Exercise: Desert Island

Rope	3 ears of corn
Flashlight	Camping Tent
Lighter	Radio
Garden hose	Hat
Hammock	Mirror
Bug spray	Shovel
Fishing Net	A case of bottle water
Paddle	A medical kit
Ladder	
Kerosene	





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Module Four: Debate and Dialogue


Lesson 11: Consensus Building

Consensus Building



Lesson Objective: To provide participants an opportunity to work through a collaborative decision-making process

Some of what we will discuss in this lesson includes:

- What is consensus building?
 - Why is it important
 - Defining Success
 - Eight Stages of Consensus Building
- 

What is consensus building?

- Consensus building is also known as **collaborative problem solving** process.
- Allows various stakeholders to work together to **develop a mutually acceptable solution.**
- Consensus building teaches us to **compromise**


“A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus.”

—Martin Luther King, Jr.



Why is Consensus Building Important?



- Consensus building is important in because...
 - many **problems exist that affect diverse groups of people** with different interests
 - offers a way for decision-makers, organizations, and even citizens **to collaborate on solving complex problems**
 - **allows a variety of people to have input into decision-making processes**
 - helps **establish a common understanding and framework** for developing a solution
 - help participants **explore mutual gains** as often the ultimate outcome doesn't have to be winner take all.
- 


Defining Success



Unanimity


- Most consensus-building efforts set out to achieve unanimity in the final resolution.
- Unanimity is usually achieved by compromise and negotiation

Compromise

- There are "holdouts" who believe their interests will be better served by resisting the proposed agreement.
 - It is acceptable for a consensus-building effort to settle for overwhelming agreement that gets as close as possible to meeting the interests of every stakeholder.
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Eight Stages of Consensus Building



1. Identify the issue the group wants to reach a consensus on
 2. Make sure that you have the right people in the room for the discussion
 3. Design a process that has a clear, realistic timeline that results in a decision being made about the issue
 4. Do a thorough problem definition and analysis.
 5. Identify and evaluate alternative solutions.
 6. Decision making.
 7. Approval of the agreement.
 8. implementing the agreement.
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Exercise: Consensus Building





**YOUTH ACTIVISM FOR
LEBANESE ACCOUNTABILITY**