

Dialogic Communication (UW-La Crosse Public Speaking Center)

Definition: “A style of communication that respectfully encourages others to want to listen, while also listening in a way that encourages others to want to speak” (Huisman et al., 2019, p. 39)

Dialogic communication is an approach to communication that focuses on promoting a dialogue between a speaker and their audience.

Dialogic communication encourages speakers to be **assertive** (calm, respectful, and open) in presenting their ideas to an audience.

Characteristics of a dialogue

| Characteristic | Explanation |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Civility | Interact with others in order to develop and maintain effective and mutually beneficial relationships Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Politeness• Respect for others• Respect for self• Assertiveness as opposed to aggressiveness |
| Presentness | Providing complete attention and focus to a speaker in order to engage in a meaningful dialogue with them |
| Unconditional positive regard | “accepting others with a positive attitude” (p. 43) |
| Mutual equality | All ideas are given equal worth |

Ways to promote a dialogue in your speeches

- Use representative examples – use examples that typical for the topic that you are discussing, as opposed to examples that are atypical
- Use inclusive examples and language – don't assume that your audience shares your experiences or views on a topic
- Avoid making absolute statements in your speech – remember, there are other perspectives and points of view on your speech topic.
- Think of your speech as a conversation between you and your audience.
- Be open to questions of clarification and different perspectives on your speech.
- Some instructors will require you answer questions after or during your speech. Be prepared for other speech elements to promote dialogue.

Handout adapted from Communicating Effectively

Husiman, D., Berry, I., Peterson, J., Van Oss, J. (Eds.) (2019). *Communicating Effectively*. Southlake, TX. Fountainhead Press.