

Bohm **Dialogue**

Purpose: Find a collective wisdom.

Definition:

A disciplined approach to a higher level of communication which generates a previously unrealized understanding, insight or truth.

In dialogue we do not try to convince others of our point of view.

Dialogue slows down the speed at which most groups converse by employing deeper levels of listening and reflection.

New perspectives require a span of time for thinking to occur.

Dialogue building blocks: 1. suspension of judgement 2. listening 3. identification of assumptions 4. inquiry and reflection

Einstein: We cannot hope to create a new paradigm with our feet, and our thinking, firmly planted in the old one. How do we bridge the gap? By becoming aware of how our thinking has shaped our strategies, behaviors, and results; by being willing to suspend our judgements and perceive reality in new ways.

True mastery of listening: Understanding how our personal beliefs and assumptions color what we hear. The goal is to suspend the thought that something is right or wrong.

Until we can recognize and suspend our personal identification with our assumptions and opinions, we will continue to find ourselves in conflicts, unable to discover any common ground. As long as I believe my perception is identical with who I am, I will be unwilling to see from your perspective. To do so would mean giving up who I am.

In the very act of identifying an assumption, we begin the process of suspending it.