



Sustained Dialogue Campus Network

It's not just talk...it's a social movement

About Sustained Dialogue

Sustained Dialogue Campus Network is a national non-profit focused on helping students build relationships and ameliorate social issues facing their campuses. Sustained Dialogue @ UGA is the University of Georgia chapter of SDCN. Our mission here at UGA is to improve student-student relationships on campus by providing students with a safe environment in which they can openly dialogue about the many issues affecting those relationships. Through SD, a student has the opportunity to learn about fellow students' views and life experiences as well as to explore the causes of tension on campus and search for solutions. We are an open and all-inclusive vehicle for personal learning and social change.

*Dialogue is a process of genuine interaction through which human beings listen to each other deeply enough **to be changed by what they learn**. Each makes a serious effort to take other's concerns into her or his own picture, **even when disagreement persists**. No participant gives up her or his identity, but each recognizes enough of the other's valid human claims that he or she will act differently toward the other.*

– Dr. Hal Sanders,
Founder and President, IISD



Office of Multicultural Services and Programs | University of Georgia
Department of Intercultural Affairs
3rd Floor, Memorial Hall

The Three D's

Debate	Dialogue	Discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assume one right answer and it is yours • combative • about winning • listen for flaws • counter argue • no emotion • no personal experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assume many people with pieces of the answer • collaborative • about learning from difference • listen to understand • emotions • personal experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assume one global answer • conceptual • listening for non-emotional logical pieces • seeking most correct ideas • no emotion • no personal experience

Sustained Dialogue is Different

How SD works is what sets it apart from any other organization on campus. Dialogue Groups are not one time events. When a student signs up to be in a Dialogue Group, she/he is making a semester or year long commitment to that group. This is the 'sustained' part of the dialogue. Having students come together repeatedly over an extended period of time to discuss their differences allows them build trust and understanding which, in turn, allows students to delve deeper into the difficult social issues affecting them.

The goal of dialogue is not to change others in the doing something to someone sense of the word change. The point of dialogue is to allow him/her/myself to be changed by the process itself.

How Sustained Dialogue Works

- Dialogue Groups of 8-12 students and 2 student moderators are organized
- Groups meet once every other week for 1-2 hours
- Moderators facilitate dialogue by providing topics and information, and by ensuring all voices are heard and respected.

Topics include: Identity, religion, stereotypes, sexual orientation, gender issues, privilege, class, race, greek/non-greek tensions, campus issues affecting student-student relationships

For more info or to join our group, email us at
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