

CONFLICT & DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Initial Reflections on Conflict

Instructions

When doing the reading for this class, there are the two basic kinds of information you need to understand:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, it is *information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible position on an issue, rather than another.

Reading

Pruitt, D. G., & Kim, S. H. (2004). Overview. In *Social Conflict: Escalation, Stalemate, and Settlement* (3rd ed., pp. 3–14). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Questions

1. Explain in your own words Pruitt and Kim's definition of conflict.
2. Pruitt and Kim discuss four basic strategies for dealing with conflict. How would you describe each of these?
3. What are some of the potentially good features of conflict? What are some of the potentially bad ones?

To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently about these issues at our next class meeting.