

Tendencies When Faced With 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?

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). Nature and sources of conflict. In *Social conflict: Escalation, stalemate, and settlement* (3rd ed., pp. 15–36). McGraw-Hill.

Pruitt, D. G., & Kim, S. H. (2004). Strategic choice. In *Social conflict: Escalation, stalemate, and settlement* (3rd ed., pp. 37–62). McGraw-Hill.

Questions

1. What do Dean Pruitt and Sung Hee Kim mean by each of the following terms:
 - Interests,
 - Aspirations,
 - Conflict,
 - Partisan alternatives,
 - Compromises,
 - Integrative Solutions, and
 - Conflict size.
2. According to Pruitt and Kim, what are the four (or maybe five) different strategies people tend to use for handling a conflict? What are the differences between them?

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.