

War discourse vs. peace discourse

	War discourse	Peace discourse
Key questions	Who is the aggressor? How can he be stopped?	What is the object of the conflict? How can it be transformed?
Identification offer	Polarized <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • humanizes "our" political and military leaders and dehumanizes those of the other side • humanizes "our" soldiers and dehumanizes those of the other side • humanizes "our" victims and ignores or dehumanizes those of the other side • humanizes "our" civilian population for their loyalty and willingness to make sacrifices and dehumanizes that of the other side because of their nationalism • humanizes the anti war opposition of the other side and ignores or dehumanizes one's own as treasonous. 	Universal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoids identification with political and military leaders on each side • avoids identification with military personnel on each side • humanizes (at least respects) victims on each side • humanizes (at least respects) civilian society and avoids identification with warmongers on each side • humanizes (at least respects) peace forces on each side
Truth orientation	Sees truth simply as raw material and harmonizes the frames of reference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tells stories about "our" heroic deeds and the atrocities of the other side • construes the context of the conflict as insoluble antagonism • founds "our" values by means of political, historical, and ethnic myths 	Is unconditionally committed to standards of truth and also exposes inconsistencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • also reports about "our" atrocities and the suffering of the other side • explores the opportunities for a constructive transformation of the conflict • deconstructs mythological interpretations and looks for common values
Motivational logic	Presents the war as a bulwark against destruction and/or as a bridge to a better future	Focuses on the price of victory, the destruction of cultural, economic and social values
Conflict reporting	Escalation oriented with respect to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conceptualization of the conflict • evaluation of the rights, aims, and actions of the conflict parties • inducement of emotional involvement in the conflict 	De-escalation oriented with respect to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conceptualization of the conflict • evaluation of the rights, aims and actions of the conflict parties • inducement of emotional involvement in the conflict