

FACILITATING A CIRCLE

A SNAP SHOT



PURPOSE OF A RESTORATIVE CIRCLE

Use intentional questions to explore the root causes behind a conflict and harm incident involving individual(s), groups, or a community with the goal of participants moving towards accountability, empathy, and resolving the issue(s). Those most impacted by the incident are invited to voluntarily participate in a circle process led by one or more facilitators.

HOW TO SET-UP A CIRCLE SPACE

- Identify a quiet space
- Make sure there are just enough seats
- Remove tables or other obstacles blocking circle participants
- Have notetaking space available to record key agreements
- Select a talking piece that holds meaning (not a random object)
- Have a clock to support time management

Need Support? Contact CYS

COMMON CIRCLE GUIDELINES

- Honor confidentiality
- Speak from your heart
- Listen with your heart
- Respect the talking piece

STAGES OF A CIRCLE PROCESS

1. Opening the Circle
 - Introductions
 - Gain agreement on circle guidelines
 - Forecast circle process
2. Various Rounds of Restorative Questions
3. Confirm Agreements (in writing, if needed)
4. Closing the Circle

COMMON RESTORATIVE QUESTIONS

- What happened from your perspective?
- Who was impacted and how?
- What needs to be done to make things right / to repair the harm?

