

TALKING CIRCLES FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES
A Cross Cultural Model

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- I. Honor Tradition 10-15% of allotted time
 - A. Greet elders, leaders, and all participants according to traditional practices
 - B. Open the gathering with a prayer offered by traditional leader, in the indigenous language
 - C. Acknowledge cultural and racial differences and speak appreciation for the invitation to be present and share time together

- II. Invite Inclusion 15-20% of allotted time
 - A. Introduce activity that establishes equality
 - B. Create the circle as sacred space
 - C. Bring forth the talking piece
 - E. Establish shared agreements

- III. Present Didactic Materials 10% of allotted time
 - A. Present information orally
 - B. Encourage dialogue
 - C. Relate stories
 - D. Distribute handouts at the end of session

- IV. Experience the Circle 55-65% of allotted time
 - A. Speak directions
 - B. Establish number of rounds
 - C. Model behavior
 - D. Move questions from low to higher risk taking and self disclosure
 - E. Conclude with
 - 1) questions and answers;
 - 2) self-assessment sharing;
 - 3) process evaluation;
 - 4) other: whatever has come into awareness through the process
 - F. Close the circle with ritual, prayer

SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR CIRCLE ROUNDS:

SAMPLE QUESTIONS, SET 1:

- Round 1: who do you remember yourself to be as a child?
- Round 2: how does your vision of yourself as a child play out in your adult life?
- Round 3: what are your greatest accomplishments in your work/family/community?
and, what are your greatest challenges in these areas?
- Round 4: what do you wish to accomplish in your remaining time on earth?
and, what assistance do you need from those in this circle/community?

SAMPLE QUESTIONS, SET 2:

- Round 1: what is something in your community/organization that you are proud of?
- Round 2: what is a challenge your organization/community faces?
- Round 3: what are solutions to address this challenge?
- Round 4: what legacy do you wish to leave behind in regards to the organization/community?