

# Restorative Circle Questions:

## Types of circles:

Peacemaking

Healing

Beginning of the day

Dealing with behavior

Sharing

Brainstorming

Discussing

Having fun

Talking

Anytime

End of day

Farewell

Sequential

Non-sequential

Inside-outside

Fish bowl

Other

## Four norms:

*One voice-* one person speaks at a time

*Listen with mind and heart-* actively consider what others say

*Safe space-* maintain confidentiality

*Make space-* do not dominate the conversation

*This is a time when doing is split off from knowing and being is hardly at all. But here and there on this side of the horizon, people meet in sacred circles to form communities and speak their hearts that seek the same.*

## Questions for a target/offender circle:

- Who has been hurt?
- What happened?
- What are their needs?
- Whose obligations are they?
- What are the causes?
- Who has a "stake" in this?
- What is the best way to put things right?
- How can we put it right?
- Is that a fair solution for everyone involved?
- How have things been between the two of you now?
- What needs to happen to re-build trust?
- Are there additional things you would like to add?
- What needs to be done to make things right?
- How do the other participants feel about it?
- Would you say that again?
- I'd like to hear what others are thinking about \_\_\_\_\_'s comments.
- Can we create a new plan?
- What have you thought about since?

## Questions for a discipline circle:

- What rules have been broken?
- Who did it?
- What did you think or feel when you found out that the (asst. principal, counselor, etc.) found out what you did?
- What seems to be going on that has been causing such difficulty over the past (days, weeks, etc.)?
- How can we put it right?
- Is that a fair solution for everyone involved?
- Do you understand how your actions have affected other people?
- Is there a deposit you can make in their emotional bank account?
- Who do you think will be affected by your actions?
- What needs to happen to re-build trust?
- Are there additional things you would like to add?
- What's going on in your life right now?
- What needs to be done to make things right?
- How do the other participants feel about it?
- I'll restate what you said. Listen to make sure I got it right.
- What consequences have you received for your behavior?
- What consequence should you receive?
- Do you always have to do that?
- What led up to this?
- What were you thinking at the time?
- How can you make sure it doesn't happen again?
- What have you thought about since?
- What did you want to happen when you did that?

## Advisory/Classroom circle:

- What is a thorn or tough time?
- What is a rose or time of sweetness?
- Can you tell me what is right in your world?
- Is there anything happening in your life outside of school that affects your work and behavior in class?
- Name one or two things you wish were different about school?
- What is a problem our class is having?
- What can we do about the problem?
- What are you struggling with?
- How do you describe yourself?
- What assumptions do teachers make about you that are not true?
- When do you feel proud of yourself?
- What should you be doing more or less of to help you reach your goals?
- What does a safe classroom feel like?

## Offender circle:

- What did you do?
- What did you want to happen when you did that?
- Put yourself in \_\_\_\_\_ shoes, how do you think he/she feels about what happened?
- Remember a time when someone hurt you. What happened? How did you feel?
- Everyone makes mistakes and hurts others. The important thing is to learn from one's mistakes. Do you want to be someone who fixes his/her mistakes? How can you make things better?
- What do you think \_\_\_\_\_ needs in order to make things better? What else might be good to have happen?
- So, you've decided to address what happened by carrying out (name the agreements). How will you do that? When will you do it?
- Let's practice. What will you do or say first?
- There may be a time in the future when you feel like bullying. What will you do instead?
- What led up to this?
- What were you thinking at the time?
- Do you always have to do that?
- Can you think of a time you wanted to bully someone but decided not to? What were you thinking? Could you do the same in the future?
- What would you like to say to \_\_\_\_\_?
- What would justice look like for you and \_\_\_\_\_?
- How can you make sure it doesn't happen again?

## Discussion circle:

- The evidence I use to support \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.
- I believe \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.
- I know that \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ because.
- Based on \_\_\_\_\_, I think \_\_\_\_\_.

## Target circle:

- How did you feel?
- What questions did you want to ask \_\_\_\_\_?
- What else did you want to say to him or her?
- Who or what could make things right for you?
- What would justice have looked like for you?
- What happened?
- Are you alright?
- How are you feeling now?
- What do you need now?
- What will make it better?
- How can I help?