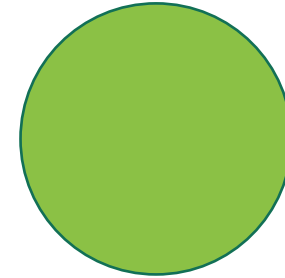


Introduction to Responsive Circles



A versatile restorative justice practice that fosters cooperation and responsibility

- in group situations with mutual responsibilities identified.
- in pro-active relationship building or conflict resolution.
- in which honest communications, relationship development, and community building are core desired outcomes.

Common Attributes of Restorative Justice Programs

Those most affected by an offense may

- Be directly involved in resolving the situation and addressing the consequences of the harm done
- Receive answers to their questions about the harm done and the one who caused harm
- Express themselves about the impact of the harm done
- Receive restitution or reparation



Common Attributes of Restorative Justice Programs



Those who caused harm may

- Acknowledge responsibility for the harm done and understand the effects of the harm on those most affected
- Express emotions (even remorse) about the harm done
- Receive support to repair harm caused to those most affected or oneself and family
- Make amends or restitution/reparation
- Restore their relationship with those most affected, when appropriate

Uses for Responsive Circles

Harm

- Offenses
- Trauma

Reintegration

- Re-entry
- Acceptance

Reflection

- Conflict
- Decision Making

Circle	Other RJ Process
Talking piece regulates the dialog	Facilitator directs the dialog
Explicit discussion of values before discussing items	No discussion of values
Group creation of guidelines	Facilitator provides ground rules and asks group for additions
Do not jump directly to the issues	Process goes directly to the participants to identify the issues
Deliberate marking of the space as a space apart through opening and closing ceremony	No use of ceremony but rather opening and closing consistent with pre-meetings
Facilitator is also a participant	Facilitator does not participate as a stakeholder

Reflection Circle

Reflection on an Incident

Useful for...

Classroom
Behavior

Sports Team
Incident

Neighborhood
Bullying

4.28 minutes



Circle Overview



Purpose

To create a safe, **non-judgmental**, place to discuss an issue or react to a speaker or film that allows the opportunity for each person to speak, without interruptions.

Intent

To engage in a **sharing of authentic personal reactions** and feelings that are owned by each individual and acknowledged by others, without judgment or condemnation.



Circle Questions

- Are specific high-quality questions used to explore challenging circumstances
- Developing the questions is the most difficult thing to learn how to do
- There is a “method to the madness”
- Every Responsive Circle has different leading questions

Reintegration

Indigenous Circle

Making
Amends



A Key Element of a Circle Process



CONSENSUS DECISION MAKING

Consensus means that participants are willing to live with a decision and support its implementation. Works towards meeting the needs of everyone to some extent.

Agreements Made in the Circle



- Anyone can ask for an agreement
- Anyone can ask to modify an agreement
- Unless everyone agrees, it is not an agreement
- Everyone is responsible for maintaining the agreement
- Agreements are **not imposed by an authority**; they are negotiated by the group

Lesson : #5

Referral Sources



School

- SRO
- Admin
- Counselor
- Pre/Post
- Coach



Court

- Diversion
- Pre-Adjud
- Judge
- Probation
- Re-Entry



Community

- Clubs
- Group Homes
- Sports
- Neighbors
- Parents
- HOA
- Rental Agents
- Housing

Reflection

Suggestions

Plans for the
Future

Thank you

Terri C Masiello

www.triadrj.org/training – Training registration page

www.rjprograms.com – Terri's training site

www.rjnc.us – Restoring Youth Coalition of North Carolina