



# USING RESTORATIVE CIRCLES

## RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Restorative Circles are a crucial component of Restorative Practices. By gathering in a circle, every individual can see and hear one another. Restorative Circles offer shared responsibility, ownership of choices, safety, trust, and connection. Moreover, circles can be utilized in a variety of situations.



### Sequential Model

In this model, you go around the circle with a talking piece, giving each youth the opportunity to participate by answering a question or sharing a comment in a short-answer format. Youth can choose to pass by holding the talking piece and saying "pass".



### Non-Sequential

This model encourages volunteers to raise their hand to participate to share an idea or answer with a longer response.



### Fishbowl

This discussion model requires half of the youth to sit on the inside facing out, while the remaining youth sit on the outside facing in. A question or prompt is provided for the pairs to discuss. The inner circle can then rotate to form new pairs.

**Tip:** Any time you have youth sitting on the rug facing you, sit in a circle.

**Offering:** If you find your group is less likely to verbally respond, provide opportunities for non-verbal responses (i.e. writing down your answers and putting them in an anonymous basket to be read by others).

**LEARN ALL THE TIME.**





# CIRCLE PROMPTS

Below are the 3 most common types of questions that are used in circle meetings.

## “Get to Know You” or Warm Ups

Restorative Circles are most powerful when they have a foundation that allows youth to “Get to know each other” Adding this element to your daily opening can encourage consistent community building.

**Examples:** Tell about 1 person in your family? Who is the nicest person you know? When do you have to share or take turns in Afterschool? What is 1 rule you wish we had in this program?

## Problem Solving, Formal Circles, Reparative Action

In addition to building community, restorative circles can also provide a safe and healthy space for repairing harm and strengthening community.

**Examples:** What is a problem our class is having? What does respect look like in our classroom? What are some problems you can solve on your own? Do you think apologizing is hard? Why or Why not?

## SEL Skill and Classroom Community Development

Restorative circles provide space and opportunity for youth to continue to build their social and emotional skills in a safe and powerful way.

**Examples:** Why is it important to consider how other people may think or feel? What does worry feel like in your body? You and your friend both want to be Line Leader; what can you do?