

Sample Prompting Questions/Topics for Circles

Please note: It is always important to carefully select which questions or topics to pose to the group depending on the needs of the group. The health of each member of the circle is always to be strongly considered.

*Be prepared and know that some of the circle prompts may bring up a lot of emotions for the circle members.

Exploring Values

- Imagine you are in conflict with a person who is important in your life. What values do you want to guide your conduct as you try to work out that conflict?
- What touches your heart?
- What gives you hope?
- What demonstrates respect?
- A time when you acted on your core values even though others were not.

Getting Acquainted

- Share a happy childhood memory.
- If you could be a superhero, what super powers would you choose and why?
- How would your best friend describe you?
- What would you not want to change about your life?
- If you could talk to someone from your family who is no longer alive, who would it be and why?
- If you had an unexpected free day, what would you like to do?
- If you were an animal, what animal would you be and why?
- Name two things or people who always make you laugh.
- I like to collect....
- If you could have a face to face conversation with anyone, who would it be and why?
- Describe your ideal job.
- Describe your favorite vacation.
- If you could change anything about yourself what would it be?

Storytelling from our lives to share who we are and what has shaped us (to build community)

Invite participants to share:

- A time when you had to let go of control
- A time when you were outside of your comfort zone
- An experience in your life when you “made lemonade out of lemons”.
- An experience of transformation when, out of a crisis or difficulty, you discovered a gift in your life.
- An experience of causing harm to someone and then dealing with it in a way you felt good about.
- An experience of letting go of anger or resentment.
- A time when you were in conflict with your parents or caregiver.
- An experience where you discovered that someone was very different from the negative assumptions you first made about that person.
- An experience of feeling that you did not fit in.

Taking Responsibility

- What is unspoken in the group that blocks good relationships or possible success?
- What is the most important lesson in life you have ever learned? What made it so important?

Relating to Curriculum:

- The best/worst thing about this science project is...
- The main character in the book we are reading is like/not like me when...
- These math problems make me feel...

Relating to Community:

- What change would you like to see in your community? What can you do to promote that change?
- What is something that you do not like about your neighborhood. Why?
- What is one thing about your school that you would change if you could?

Exploring Relationships

- What is the most important quality to you in a relationship with someone else? How and why is it important to you?
- Who is somebody in your life you look up to?
- Tell us about a time when you felt like you really belonged?
- Who in your life is your greatest challenge?

Hopes and Dreams

- If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Why?
- If you could do anything that you wished in the world, what would that one thing be?
- What brings you the most joy?

Toward the end of a Circle

- What can you take away that is useful to you?
- What have you learned?
- You were to give a name to the circle, what would you name it?