

## Peacemaking/ Harm/ Conflict Resolution Circle

### Introduction

**(1) Introduction**

Purpose of this circle  
Reminder of work they have already done

**(2) Opening**

A short activity that grounds participants the process/ helps them begin to sink into the work/ separates out the rest of the day from this time together. Ex. Poem/ Song/ Silent visualization/ Light candle and name a person you admire, etc.

**(3) Introduce Talking Piece**

Share significance of particular talking piece being used  
Explain how it is used

**(4) Agreements**

Brings intention to the ways in which the group is going to be with and interact with each other  
Group articulates ways they want to conduct themselves in the circle

### Trust Building – Exs.

**(1) Share Object.** Everybody shares an important/ sacred object. Describe what it is/ what it means to you/ place in center of circle

**(2) Identify Safe Place.** Draw an image of where you feel most safe. Share with group. Place in center of circle

**(3) Share Story.** A way to build empathy and understanding, to humanize the incident. (ex. If someone stole from another student, ask each person in the circle to share a time that they were tempted to steal something or did steal something and what was going on for them at that time)

### Issues and Solution

**(1) What happened?**

Order: Person harmed, person responsible, rest of Circle

**(2) How has it impacted you and others?** How the incident has left you feeling/ how you have been harmed (emotionally, financially, physically, etc.)?

Order: Person harmed, person responsible, rest of Circle

**(3) What do you need as a result?**

Order: Person harmed, Rest of Circle

**(4) What do you feel you need to do to make things right?**

Order: Person harmed, person responsible, rest of Circle

a. Ask person harmed will this work for you? Anything else you need?

b. Anything else? (To whole group)

**(5) Create agreement/contract and follow-up plan**

### Closing

End with a closing ceremony that acknowledges participants for good work, helps make the transition from the circle space back to the outside world, and helps bring a sense of closure. A poem, song or shared breathing.

Source: Resources shared in Restorative Justice 102 class,  
Leadership Institute Allen Temple, Oakland, CA  
Fall 2012