

Restorative Justice Circle Guidelines and Questions (Student Copy)

Background: Restorative Justice is a process that focuses on addressing the harm caused to victims and the community by the offender. The focus is on healing for all parties. Restorative justice promotes positive social behaviours such as listening, empathy, personal responsibility, and community connectedness.

In our class circle, we will be discussing _____ and how it affects our community.

Guidelines for Restorative Justice Circles:

- We will work together to define guidelines for the circle. In general, the focus will be on listening, honesty, and openness.
- A talking piece will be used.
 - The person holding the talking piece is the only one talking while everyone else listens.
 - The talking piece may be passed around the circle in order, or may be passed on to the person who wishes to speak next.
 - Everyone has the chance to speak, but is not obligated to.

Circle Process:

- Opening
- Guidelines
- Inquiry process to discuss issue:
 - “What is happening in the community?”
 - “How does this make you feel?”
 - “Who is being harmed by this? How are they affected?”
 - “What can you do as an individual to address this issue?”
 - “What do you need to help you do it?”
 - “How do you feel about this now after talking it out?”
- Closing