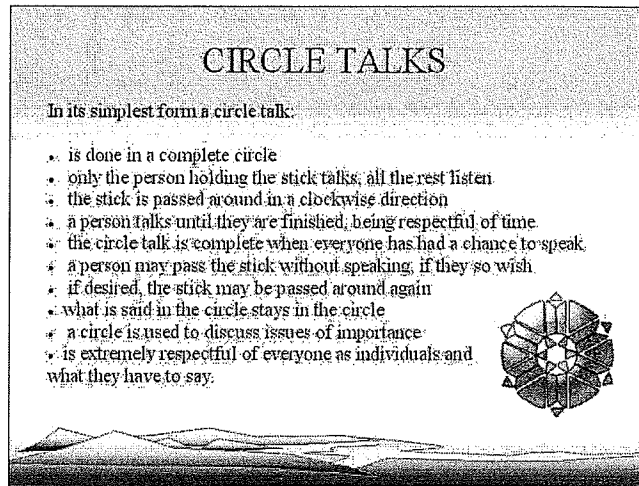


Circle Talk

Talking Circles or Circle Talks are a foundational approach to First Nations pedagogy-in-action since they provide a model for an educational activity that encourages dialogue, respect, the co-creation of learning content, and social discourse. The nuance of subtle energy created from using this respectful approach to talking with others provides a sense of communion and interconnectedness that is not often present in the common methods of communicating in the classroom. When everyone has their turn to speak, when all voices are heard in a respectful and attentive way, the learning atmosphere becomes a rich source of information, identity, and interaction.



Talking Circles originated with First Nations leaders - the process was used to ensure that all leaders in the tribal council were heard, and that those who were speaking were not interrupted. Usually the Chief would initiate the conversation, with other members responding and sharing their perceptions and opinions of the topic under discussion. The process provides an excellent model for interaction within the learning environment as well. It is also very adaptive to any circle of people who need to discuss topics and make decisions together.

<https://firstnationspedagogy.ca/circletalks.html>

Assignment: Do the reflection as outlined below and add to TEAMS.

After we do the Circle Talk, you are asked to reflect on one of the following prompts from the Indigenous Principles of Learning (How we learn):

- learning is embedded in memory, history, and story.**
- Learning requires exploration of one's identity
- What is good listening? Did you see it today? What did it look like? Or not look like? How can you become a better listener?
- How can this exercise build community?
- Reflect on which story resonated with you. Who would you like to interview to hear more?
- How can this exercise increase your personal awareness or pride in culture and/or family?

Good reflections have the following elements:

- Evidence
- More analysis and less summary
- How will you use this thinking or experience in the future?

Circle Work

1. Class pushes all the desks to the perimeter of room and makes a circle with chairs
 2. Note: I began the class with a reminder of my assessment rules. Want to remind them that the mark is just a number, it is not who they are. This exercise shows us that we are all people with life experiences, family, and an identity.
 3. Honouring traditional territory (student volunteer- read off the card)
 4. On board:
 - a. Circle of life (child, youth, adult, elders, seasons, etc)
 - b. **learning is embedded in memory, history, and story.**
 - c. Learning requires exploration of one's identity
 - d. What is good listening?
 5. "We are here to get to know each other and yourself. I want to set the tone of sharing our lives and honouring and gratitude. The Indigenous people of this area used the talking stick as a way to make sure every voice is heard. We are in a circle because many of the cultures thought a circle eliminated hierarchy, and it reflected the circles of life. Eg. Seasons, the tide, life, etc. We are going to use it to go around circle and listen to other's stories and experiences. **I want you to think about how learning is embedded in memory, history, and story.**
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1. *First round: what is your full name and where is your family from?* Go back as far as you know.
 - a. Ask students at the end what they noticed. Eg. People from all over the world, etc.
 2. Move places according to seasonal birthday
 3. *Second round: honouring elders. Who do you honor and why?*
 - a. What traits do you hear consistently?
 4. "You are respected" with the talking stick. Look in the eye to show connection and respect to what they are saying.
 5. **Third round: Honouring yourself as a child**
 - a. What do you notice about this round?
 6. Move places according to seasonal birthday
 7. *Fourth round: What are you grateful for? OR what are your hopes?*
 8. Discuss
 - a. How did this experience show you that learning is embedded in memory, history and story?
 - b. How can one learn through aural and oral communication?
 - c. How is this an exploration of your identity? Or What did you learn about yourself in this circle?
 9. Turn your chair to a desk. Choose ONE of the discussion questions above to answer in a paragraph on your Edublog. **Title and TAG:EFPCirclework**