

Circle Prompts 7th-8th Grades

Compiled by Sabrina Sordello,

Restorative Practices Intern with Central Valley YFC

COMMUNITY BUILDING CIRCLES

Questions for Getting Acquainted¹

Share a happy childhood memory.

If you could be a superhero, which superpower would you choose and why?

How would your best friend describe you?

What would you NOT want to change about your life? Why?

If you could talk to someone from your family who is no longer alive, who it would be?
What would you want to talk about?

If you had an unexpected free day and could do anything you wished, what would you do?

If you were an animal, what type would you be and why?

What is a memory you have of time spent in nature?

Who do you respect and why?

What was a time when you were outside your comfort zone? What did you do and what were the results?

What is it like when someone is angry at you?

Getting Acquainted²

If you were a reporter, what kind of stories would you like to write about?

What do you think other people see as your best quality? Why?

What is the silliest thing that ever happened to you?

What is the best thing that happened to you this past week?

¹

²

What was the most difficult or challenging thing that happened to you this week?

Getting Acquainted³

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 favorite vacation.

If you could change anything about yourself, what would it be?

What is your favorite place in the world? Why?

Something I am looking forward to (this weekend, this school year, this Christmas/New Year) is. . .

Favorites⁴, p. 4

My favorite TV program is...

My favorite book is...

My favorite computer game/video game is...

My favorite food is...

My favorite meal is...

My favorite time of the year is...

My favorite person in my family is...

My favorite TV/movie star is...

My favorite singer/performer is...

My favorite time at school is...

My favorite time is...

My favorite game to play is...

My favorite things to do with my friends is...

3

4, p. 4

My favorite possession is...

My favorite place in my house is...

My favorite place to go is...

My favorite type of weather is...

My favorite thing to wear is...

Values⁵ 2

What is your passion?

What touches your heart?

What gives you hope?

What demonstrates respect?

What change would you like to see in your community? What can you do to promote that change?

A time when you acted on your core values even though others were not.

Something I learned about myself recently.

What would you do if you had no fear?

Values⁶ 3

What is something you value about your family? Why?

What is something you value about yourself? Why?

What is something that you are thankful for? Why?

Talk about something that you want and something that you need. What is the difference?

In your experience, what supports healing?

What sustains you during difficult times?

Self-Awareness⁷ 2

⁵ 2

⁶ 3

⁷ 2

What does stress look like for you?

How do you relieve stress?

Talk about a time when you felt like it was hard to be happy. How did you get through it?

Do you think that you're an introvert or extrovert? How does this effect how you respond to stress?

What would you do with \$1 million?

Self-Awareness/Self-Knowledge^{8 4, p. 3}

One way I am different from other students is...

One way I am the same as other students is...

I sometimes wonder how...

I sometimes wonder why...

I sometimes wonder if...

I believe in...

_____ is important to me because. . .

Someone I hope to be like is... (because)...

When I leave this school, I hope people remember me as...

The sort of person I see myself as is...

The kind of person I am influenced by is...

The kind of person I look up to is...

I am not pleased with myself when...

A time I was brave was...

A fear I have overcome was...

A fear I would like to overcome is...

I worry about ...

^{8 4, p. 3}

If I was President of the United States, I would...

If I could make changes in this world, I would...

Religion meansto me...

Something that makes me sad/happy/miserable/angry is...

Something I intend achieving is...

Something I have achieved recently is...

Something I would like to do again is..

Something I will never do again is...

Something I avoid doing is...

When students make mistakes, teachers should...

Personal Skills⁹, p. 5

I like myself least when...

I like myself when...

At home I am good at...

In school I am good at...

I like doing...

At home, I am not very good at...

At school I am not very good at...

I dislike doing...

Something I like doing but am not very good at is...

Something I had to work hard to learn was ...

Something I intend to learn is...

I am at my best when...

Something that was a hard decision for me was...

⁹ 4, p. 5

I would like to take responsibility at home for...

I would like to take responsibility at school for...

A time I was given responsibility was ...and I did it very well.

A time I was given responsibility was... and it did not work out/was too much.

Something I am proud of...

A limitation I can accept in myself is...

A limitation I dislike about myself is...

A limitation I could change is...

Something I did and can be proud of ...

If I could turn the clock back to change something I did, it would be....

Feelings¹⁰ 4, p. 4

Today I feel...

I feelabout myself.

I feelabout circles.

I feelabout the future...

I feel ...about this school/school rules.

I feelabout adults/teachers.

I feelabout society.

I feelabout this city.

I feel good about

I feel bad about...

I feel... about my name.

I feelabout my appearance.

I feel about war/drugs/peace/stealing/bullying/pollution/violence/ environmental issues.

¹⁰ 4, p. 4

I feel good/happy/pleased when...

I feel sad/bad/unhappy/angry/miserable when...

A time I felt afraid was... and it was fun.

A time I felt afraid was... and it was not fun.

When I first came to this school, I felt...

New experiences/the unknown makes me feel...

I feel powerless when...

I feel helpless when...

I feel lonely when...

_____ makes me feel happy/sad/pleased OR helpless/angry/miserable.

I feel concerned for...

Making decisions makes me feel ...

If I make a mistake, I feel...

What I feel about mistakes is...

If someone else makes a mistake, I feel...

Feelings^{11 2}

My favorite weather is...

Rain makes me feel...

Wind makes me feel...

Sunshine makes me feel...

Snow makes me feel...

Fog makes me feel...

Today I feel...

If I were a famous actor/actress, I would be ...

^{11 2}

If I were a famous athlete, I would be...

When I graduate from high school, I want to ...

When I become an adult, I want to...

I can't wait until...

Friends are ...

Putdowns make me feel...

Appreciations make me feel...

What gives you hope?

How do you feel about bullying?

Say something nice about the person to your right.

What change would you like to see in our classroom?

How does it feel when someone is angry at you?

Family¹² 4, p. 2

Families are...

The way I show my family I'm angry is...

Something I admire about one of my parent(s)/guardian(s)...

A good time I had with my family was...

I can laugh with my parent/guardian about...

I can laugh with my brothers/sisters about...

The thing I admire about my sibling (cousin, etc.) is....

The thing that annoys me most about my sibling or cousin is...

I'm most proud of...

I'm good/not good at being on my own when...

When I'm on my own, I prefer to...

¹² 4, p. 2

I feel my parents/guardians or siblings take advantage of me when...

I take advantage of my parents/guardians or siblings when...

The family member I would most like to be is... (because)

I wish my parents/guardians of...

When I argue with my parents/guardians, they...

When I argue with my parents/guardians, I...

When I argue with my siblings, I...

Something I rely on my family for is...

Something I would miss about my sibling is...

Something I would miss about my parent/guardian...

I still need adults for...

Friendship¹³ 4, p. 1

A friend is...

A quality I look for in a friend is...

Something I like to do with a group of friends is...

Something I like to do with my best friend is...

The sort of person I would trust is...

The sort of people I like best are...

I respect friends who...

If a friend has deceived me...

The way I show my friends I'm angry is...

I laugh with my friends about

Something my friends do that makes me laugh is...

The kind of behavior I would expect from my friends towards me is...

¹³ 4, p. 1

The kind of behavior I prefer to see from my friends when we are out is...

If my friends fall out, I try to get them back together by ...

An irritating habit that could turn me off is...

Friends take advantage when...

I take of advantage of friends when...

I feel let down by friends when ...

I have been pleasantly surprised by friends who...

The sort of friend I am is...

I would be a better friend if...

I would not help my friend if...

The most difficult thing about making a new friend is...

The most difficult thing about starting a friendship with someone of the opposite sex is...

With my friends I see myself mainly as a giver/receiver. Give an example.

If I disagree with my friends, I ...

I find it easy/difficult to disagree with my friends....

I get my friends to do what I want by...

In the past, a time I felt left out was...

In the past, I have left someone out by...

Identity¹⁴₂

What things do you think define your identity?

Do you believe that your attitude or the way you portray yourself defines who you are?
Why or why not?

Share about an experience that changed your outlook on life?

How can a different outlook on life change your identity?

How much does your school community and/or friends influence your identity?

¹⁴ 2

Do you think it's possible to create a better identity? If so, how do you create a better one?

Community¹⁵ 4, p. 2

The person I most admire in school is....

The person I most admire in my community is...

The sort of person I am inspired by is... because...

At home the sort of person I am is...

With my friends, the sort of person I am is...

With teachers, the sort of person I am is...

I wish teachers would...

The sort of teachers I admire are...

One thing I would like to change about this school is...

One thing I would like to change about this class is...

The best thing about where I live is...

The worst thing about where I live is...

Wishes¹⁶ 4, p. 3

I wish I could...

If I had three wishes...

A hobby I wish I could do is...

A sport I wish I could do is...

A place I wish I could visit is...

Someone I wish I could meet is...

Something I wish I could do is...

When I was little, I used to wish...

¹⁵ 4, p. 2

¹⁶ 4, p. 3

Now what I wish for is...

When I grow up, I wish to be...

Something I wish for my family is...

Something I wish for my class is...

Something I wish for my school is...

I wish my parents would let me...

Content/Academic Circles

Literature¹⁷²

What did you think about the first few pages?

What did you choose to write about?

Pick a character you just read about; how do you think that character feels?

What does that character see, hear, smell, touch, or taste?

How does this make you feel?

Share about an experience you've had like the characters in this book.

How do you understand the reading better after listening to classmates' opinions?

How do you feel after reading the first chapter?

How interested are you in reading the next chapter?

On a scale of 1-10 (1-not at all to 10-Ready to read it now!), how interested are you in reading the next chapter?

What predictions can you make?

What do you think will happen next?

Is there a part in Chapter 1 [or any other chapter] that is relevant to real life?

What is the author trying to say in the first chapter? Please cite evidence to support your claim.

¹⁷ 2

Do you feel like the discussion increased your understanding of the text? Why or why not?

Poetry¹⁸₂

What is the main idea of the poem?

Which line or phrase in the poem do you like the most? Why?

Has that line or phrase ever been true for you or anyone else you know?

Do you feel like the author's poem is true to the real world? Give an example.

Does this poem speak to a specific group of people? Could it also speak to others?

What are your thoughts after reading and analyzing the poem?

How do you feel after reading the poem?

Do you enjoy reading or writing poetry? Why or why not? Questions, comments, concerns?

What is imagery?

Why do authors use imagery when writing?

Share an example of imagery used in this poem.

How does this line add meaning to the poem?

Write a line using imagery that could be added to this poem (give students time to complete this in their seats).

Is there another poem or story you remember that uses imagery to add to the meaning?

How do you feel after reading the poem?

Do you like this poem? Why or why not?

On a scale of 1-10 (1-not at all to 10-I love it), how much do you like this poem?

What kind of dream do you think the author is talking about?

How do you think the author feels about this topic?

What is the author's tone/overall mood?

¹⁸ 2

Describe how substituting a word could change the tone/ mood of the poem?

Sources:

1. *Teaching Restorative Practices with Classroom Circles*
<http://fromdiaperstodiamonds.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Teaching-Restorative-Practices-with-Classroom-Circles.pdf>
2. *Guide & Toolkit, CPS Blog.* https://blog.cps.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/CPS_RP_Booklet.pdf
3. *Restorative Practices Lesson Plan Guide*, Open Society Institute, Baltimore.
<http://www.osibaltimore.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Merged-RP-Lesson-Plan-Guide-FINAL.pdf>
4. *Perry Finch Circle Prompts*, https://acsw.org/conference/2013/NOLA/Perry-Finch_Circle_Prompts.pdf Adapted from *Developing Circle Time* by Bliss, Robinson, and Maines, January 2002.