

# Academic Circle - Book Connection

The purpose of this circle is to build community and connection around the participants' favorite books. During the circle, participants will share their thoughts and ask questions of each other. This activity can be easily modified to suit other purposes, such as vocabulary preview/ review.

Time	The first round typically takes 1-3 minutes per person, others optional
Group Size	6+
Materials	2 index cards per person, markers/ pens
Setup	Standard circle. Optional- have some books in the center

Remember that this is an academic circle that uses slightly variant norms for circle rounds. The spirit of the circle guidelines still apply. Everyone is asked to be their best self and to engage with one another.

Opening	<b>Today we are going to discuss the books we love.</b> (Keeper) Get a sense of how familiar participants are with using a talking piece and rounds. Review as necessary. <b>We are going to start by taking 3 slow, deep breaths, letting each out slowly. While doing this think about books that you have read that have made an impression on you or have been important in your life.</b> (Pass out index cards, two per person, and something for each person to write with) <b>On each of these cards I invite you to write a title of a book that you thought about. When you are finished, place the cards randomly in the circle center.</b>
Round 1	<b>Take a look at the cards in the circle center. Choose a card (no your own) that interests you. It can be a title that you have read, want to read, or are just curious about.</b> Once everyone has a card. Invite someone to start the circle. That person will share why they chose the card. After they share, ask who wrote the card. That person is then invited to speak (note the break with traditional talking piece rules). That person may address what the other person said, or make any general comment they feel. After that back and forth, the person passes the talking piece to their left or right (choice) and the circle continues in that manner. It is up to you as the facilitator if you wish to allow other comments outside of the two people, but try to keep things moving so that everyone has a turn.
Round 2	Connections round. Pass the talking piece and allow participants to connect to another, ask a question, make a comment, or expand on what they have already said.
Round 3	<b>How might you use this activity? How might it be adapted to your needs? What might students get from this?</b> If no one says it, this can be used with young children by actually having the physical books in the center, allowing them to pick a book, and say why they chose it. Alternatively, it can be used to preview or review vocabulary or academic concepts.
Closing	Pass the talking piece and invite each person to thank the other person who wrote the title they chose.