



Circle Keeping: **Crafting Good Questions**

The goal of any circle is to get people to share their stories. They can be funny, touching, revealing, sad, or informative. The content of the question and the circle keeper's response determines the tone of the circle. The phrasing of the question invites the storytelling.

Round Questions:

- **Invite storytelling**

Ask:

- Share a story about a time that you...
- Share a funny story about...
- Share your favorite (food, sport, song, other) _____ and a memory associated with that (food, sport, song, other) _____.

- **Focus on feelings**

Ask:

- How do you feel when _____ and why?
- What were you feeling when _____ happened and why?
- How do you feel when you hear/see (someone showing kindness to another, someone being bullied, a fight, other) _____ and why?

- **Invite reflection**

Ask:

- Think back on a time when you (felt supported, accomplished something that you struggled with, felt alone, felt you had failed, other) _____, what did you learn from that experience?
- Think back on a time when _____, what did you feel?
- Think about a person who (supported you, was mean to you, other) _____, what was the impact of their action(s)/word(s) on your (thoughts, feelings, experience)?
- What is the biggest challenge/obstacle you face with (math/other subjects, friends, parents, other) _____ and how can that obstacle make you stronger/better?
- What is the greatest strength you bring to _____ and how do you share that strength with others?

Summarize:

Summarizing is an important part of the Circle Keeper's job. After the talking piece has gone all the way around the circle the Circle Keeper summarizes what they heard. It helps the participants in the circle feel heard, it makes connections, it identifies commonalities, differences and/or themes that came up. There is no right or wrong way to summarize, simply reflect on what you heard. You may want to do another round asking participants to elaborate or reflect on the last round as a way to expand the conversation.