

# Teaching in a Check-in Circle

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An Example of an academic Check-in Circle that serves as a final review before a test .The review is casual ,review is based on some of the questions developed by the Teacher before Circle. Each Teaching Circle will need to be scripted ahead of time, make sure to use questions that will hold the attention of the circle. Check-in circles can be used to teach, review, de-brief after a test or the end of a subject, to talk about problems with subject matter, introduction to a new subject, share a new concept or idea. This is an example of a longer form of a check-in circle that is being held with a class who is familiar with circles, at the end of the quarter, as a check in and study circles combined, the day before the exam

## ***Preparation:***

***Design questions, reading, concepts, subject to cover, etc.  
Choose a talking piece.***

## **Review Talking Piece and Agreement:**

***See Resources: "Agreement to Respect and Honor the Talking Piece."***

## **Check-in as main activity:**

*Circle Keeper: We are ending our studies of the Civil War. You have all worked really hard this term, researching, writing and making models. You have all been successful students and you made teaching about the Civil War enjoyable. I want to take this time to review, and give you an opportunity to ask for help or to help someone who needs it. To check in with you before the test.*

*Circle Keeper: **What one new thing did you learn? Tell us about it.***  
*Pass Talking Piece.*

*Circle Keeper: **Describe one thing that you already knew and where did you learn it?*** *Pass Talking Piece.*

## ***TIP:***

One Teacher we know asks trivia questions he finds that are related to the subject material during a Teaching Circle. He gives points for correct answers to these questions However he also uses trivia questions that are just fun. During a Teaching Circle he says students are more engaged and pay close attention waiting for when he announces a trivia question.

Circle Keeper: **Name one person we studied that you admire and why?** Pass Talking Piece.

Circle Keeper: **Was there a hard portion to this study section? Can you describe it?** Pass Talking Piece

Circle Keeper: **What was the most enjoyable part of this study section? Describe the subject.** Pass Talking Piece

Circle Keeper: **Share one question that you think will be on the exam tomorrow and answer it.** Pass the Talking Piece

Circle Keeper: **If anyone having any problems with studying or is there something you don't understand, please ask questions you think might help you.** Pass Talking Piece.

**TIP:**

**Reflection Round:**

Circle Keeper: **How are you feeling about taking the exam tomorrow?**

Pass the Talking Piece

*In any of the rounds after questions there may be a need to pass the Talking Piece multiple times to clarify or discuss, or to have dialogue that answers question for understanding.*

**Check-out:**

Circle Keeper: Share a word or short phrase that describes how you are feeling right now.

Circle Keeper: **Good luck tomorrow everyone.**