



4.3 What Do We Know About Race? Circle

Suggested Grade Level: Middle and High school

Time: 45 min-1 hour

Subject Area: Race, Intersectionality, Respect Across Difference

Overview:

This circle provides a means to explore the meaning of race among those in GSA. The dialog can help introduce new possibilities in understanding the meaning of race.

This activity is adapted from the book “Circle Forward: Building a Restorative School Community” Full citation is listed below.

Goals:

- Learn about how GSA participants view race
- Learn the value GSA participants place on race
- Develop ways to continue learning about race

Materials:

- Talking piece, copies of the reading about race, “Race – The Power of Illusion, Interview by Alan Goodman

Procedure:

Step 1:

Organize the room into a circle, placing the talking piece in the center

Step 2:

Welcome people to GSA and let them know that we will be engaging in a circle conversation looking at how race impacts our lives today.

Step 3:

Introduce Rounds – A round is a pass of the talking piece around the circle. The keeper poses a question and, as a participant, usually answers first. The keeper then passes the talking piece to the person to their left or right. On the first round, participants are invited to say their name and pronoun as well as respond to the question. Remember it is ok for a participant to pass.

Values Round – Name a value that helps you participate in a good way when you are discussing a topic. Write the values as participants name them and place them in the circle.

Check-In Round *How are you doing today? What do you bring to our circle today?*

Topic Introduction *We are starting a journey together of talking about race. Race has a huge presence in our society and intersects with and impacts all members of our community but we have very few opportunities to talk about what race means to each of us. We must always talk about race in an honest and respectful way, thank you for bringing yourself to this journey in the best way you can.*

Round *What does race mean to you? Is race an important part of your identity on a daily basis?*

Round *When are you most conscious of your race? If you like, you can share an experience of being particularly conscious of your race.*

Round *When are you the most conscious of the race of others?*

Distribute a copy of the reading, “Race – The Power of Illusion, Interview with Alan Goodman” to the circle participants and read the text out loud. Allow a minute or two of silence for students to contextualize the words or to re-read the text to themselves.

Round Is there anything in this piece that is compelling or surprising to you? If so, tell us about what gets your attention and why.

Round Do you have any additional thoughts about this piece or the topic?

Round What would you like to learn more about regarding race?

Round How could you go about learning more?

Check Out Round What can you take away from this circle today?

Closing Invite everyone to stand and shake their bodies out. Thank them all for participating. Share a final closing thought as they go about their day.

Lesson Adapted from:

Boyes-Watson, Carolyn & Pranis, Kay. *Circle Forward: Building a Restorative School Community*.
Living Justice Press, 2015. P. 179