Key Elements of Restorative Justice Circles

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Restorative Justice Circles

Building Community ------ Repairing Harm

Simple Harm------Serious Wounds

Classrooms ------ Prisons

One time ------ Years
RJ Circle Elements

1. Keeper
2. Talking Piece
3. Values
4. Ceremony
5. Stages
6. Consensus
7. Storytelling
Keeper

- Respect for all
- “Sherpa”
- Role model
- Guide the process
- Monitor emotional climate
- Coordinate preparation & follow-up
- Communicator & Neutral
Talking Piece

• Introduced and explained
• Role modeling opportunity
• **Around the Circle**
• To the left *or* right
• Strategic starts
Values

- Identified by each & every person
- Important in establishing connections
- Spoken of early and referenced
- Focus of relating to each other
- Can be used at the end
- Based on relationships
Ceremony

- Opening
- Closing
- Silence
- Significant use of time
- Strong container for difficult & delicate work
4 Stages

✓ Specific Intentions

✓ Intended Outcomes

✓ Activities

✓ Keeper Techniques
Consensus

• Structured part of Circle
• Room for all perspectives
• Practice with values
• Understand deeply
• Not always easy
Storytelling

- Spoken from the heart
- Wisdom of the lived experience
- Boundary – being vulnerable or filling a need
- 4 point (intro, incident, impact, reflection)
- Additional training to be effective
- Reflect on the present