

SCVRJP Restorative Justice Center  
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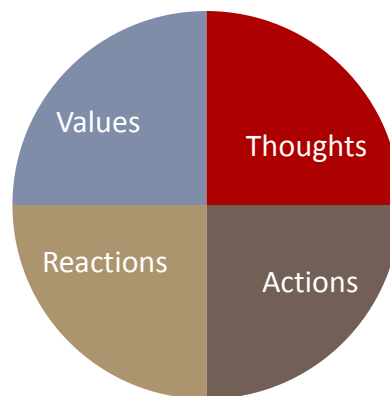
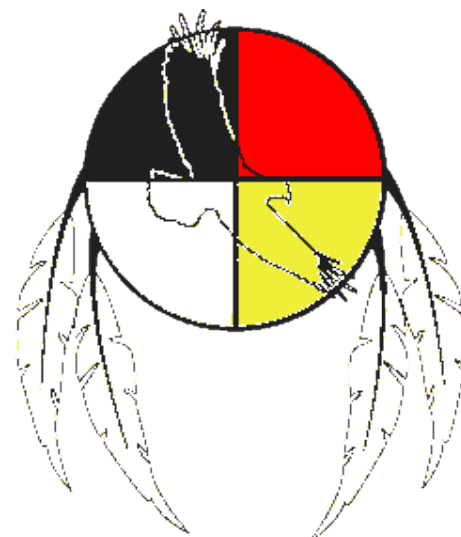
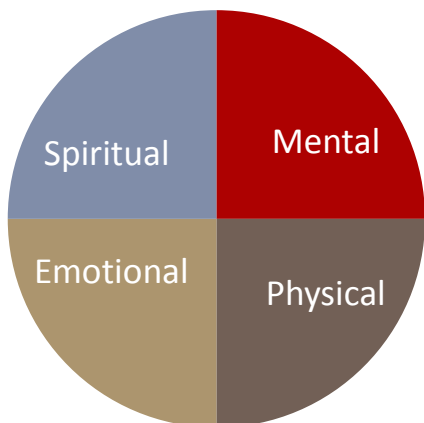
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www.scvrjp.org [www.circle-space.org](http://www.circle-space.org)



## Restorative Justice Peacemaking Circles



Building Community ----- Repairing Harm  
Simple Harm ----- Serious Wounds  
Classrooms ----- Prisons  
One time ----- Years



<b>Native American (Traditional Indian Values)</b>		<b>Non-Indian (Dominant Society Values)</b>
<b>GROUP</b> (take care of the PEOPLE)	I	<b>SELF</b> ( take care of #1)
<b>TODAY</b> is a Good Day!	MUST	<b>PREPARE FOR TOMORROW</b>
A <b>RIGHT</b> time/ <b>RIGHT</b> place	BECOME AWARE	TIME (use EVERY minute)
<b>AGE</b> (knowledge-wisdom)	OF THESE	<b>YOUTH</b> (rich, young, beautiful)
<b>COOPERATE</b>	CONFLICTING	<b>COMPETE!</b>
Be <b>PATIENT</b>	VALUES OR I CAN	Learn to be <b>AGGRESSIVE</b>
<b>LISTEN</b> (and you'll learn)	BECOME	<b>SPEAK UP</b>
<b>GIVE</b> and share	CONFUSED	<b>TAKE</b> and save
Live in <b>HARMONY</b> (with all things)	ANGRY	<b>CONQUER</b> Nature
Great <b>MYSTERY</b> /intuitive	FRUSTRATED UNBALANCED	<b>SKEPTICAL/</b> Logical
<b>HUMILITY</b>	MENTALLY PHYSICALLY	(Ego) <b>SELF</b> attention
A <b>SPIRITUAL</b> Life	SPIRITUALLY	Religion (a <b>PART</b> of life)

**SPARK** – (thiagi@thiagi.com - <http://thiagi.com/pfp/IE4H/august2012.html>)

“S” is for “selflessness”. Help others without being asked.

“P” is for “predictability”. Deliver what you promised, when you promised.

“A” is for “authenticity”. Be yourself and be happy about who you are.

“R” is for “relatedness”. Walk with the kings, without losing your common touch.

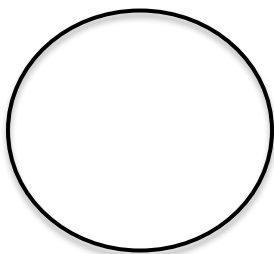
“K” is for “knowledge”. Continuously learn and apply useful principles and procedures.

Each of the five factors is necessary but not sufficient, try to cultivate all five.

## Restorative Justice Signposts - Howard Zehr

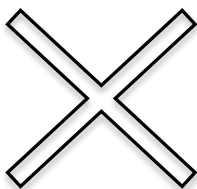
We are working toward restorative justice when we ...

- . . . focus on the harms of wrongdoing more than the rules that have been broken,
- . . . show equal concern and commitment to victims and offenders, involving both in the process of justice,
- . . . work toward the restoration of victims, empowering them and responding to their needs as they see them,
- . . . support offenders while encouraging them to understand, accept and carry out their obligations,
- . . . recognize that while obligations may be difficult for offenders, they should not be intended as harms and they must be achievable,
- . . . provide opportunities for dialogue, direct or indirect, between victims and offenders as appropriate,
- . . . involve and empower the affected community through the justice process, and increase its capacity to recognize and respond to community bases of crime,
- . . . encourage collaboration and reintegration rather than coercion and isolation,
- . . . give attention to the unintended consequences of our actions and programs,
- . . . show respect to all parties including victims, offenders and justice colleagues.



### **Circles are round . . .**

*Equal dignity and worth of every person*  
*Equal opportunity to share perspectives*  
*Center – speak to the Center instead of to others*



### **Circles have four stages . . .**

*Explain the reason for the stages*  
*Describe the Four Stages, intentions of each*  
*Offer the holistic aspects*

## Add in L for left and R for right . . .

*L stands for Listen . . . explain the unique way of listening in Circle*

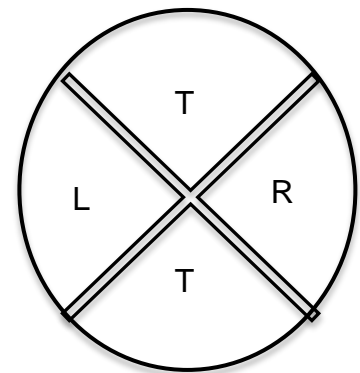
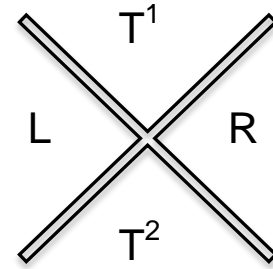
*R stands for Respect . . . explain the safer space of Circle*

*Add in Two T's One at the top and one at the bottom. **T**<sup>1</sup> stands for Truth, and **T**<sup>2</sup> for Turns.*

***Truth** – explain the importance of sharing your perspective, speaking from the heart, and the confidentiality of the individuals.*

***Turns** – explain how using the talking piece is simply taking turns, describe the best possible way of taking turns.*

*Find your voice, use your words, stay consistent with the elements learned in trainings – and thank you for bringing your time and talents to SCVRJP! -Kris*



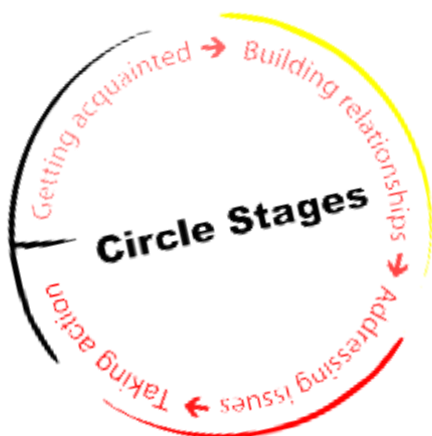
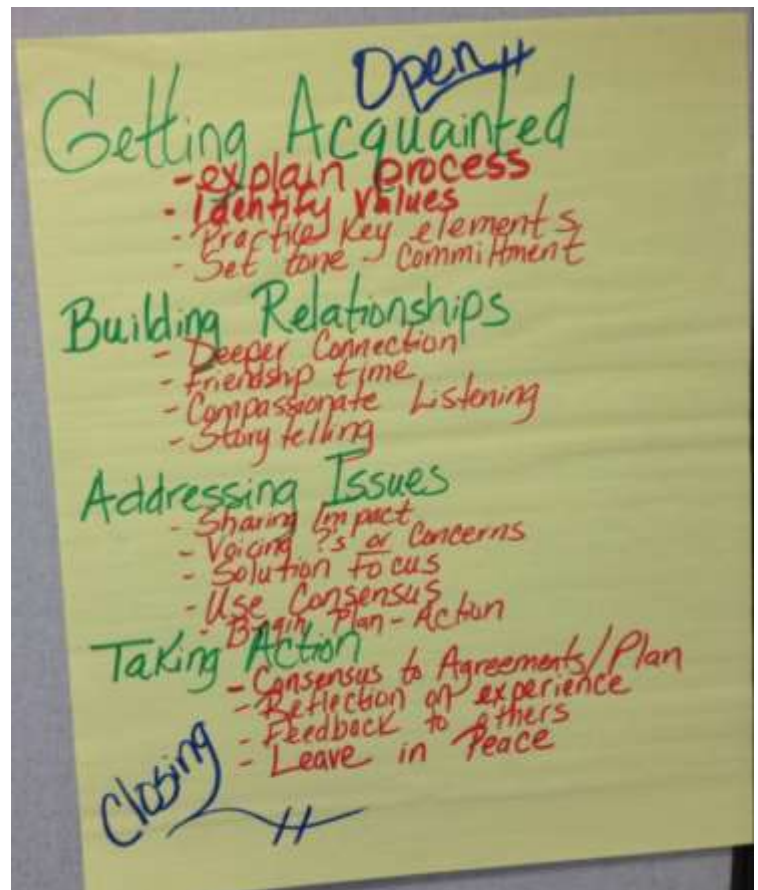
*Non-veteran Circle participants should be trained in the role and responsibilities of being a **community mentor** in Restorative Justice Peacemaking Circles.*

### **Non-veteran Circle members . . .**

- . . . Understand the importance of responsibility to those that served our military.
- . . . Willing to release 'ego' and abandon personal curiosities and serve as a witness and bring humility, compassion and create a healing experience.
- . . . Open to being transformed by the process of Circle and will uphold Circle process.
- . . . Will acknowledge and accept society's broken promises to Veterans.
- . . . Accompany those suffering and walk beside them through darkness.
- . . . Practice the self-care needed to service those marginalized and hurting.
- . . . Extend homecoming and welcoming.
- . . . Serve values greater than themselves.
- . . . Affirming a new larger identity and strength of character in a mature warrior Veteran

## Keeper

- Respect for all, “Sherpa”, role model, guide process, monitor emotional climate, coordinate preparation & follow-up
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- 1. Talking Piece**
  - Introduction by invitation, explain carefully, around the Circle, left or right, intentional starting
  -
- 2. Values**
  - Identified by each and every person, as a relationship, important in establishing connections, relative-ness, spoken early and often, (3 RJ R’s – respect, responsibility, relationship)
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- 3. Ceremony**
  - Ritual, opening, closing, safer than usual space, silence, significant use of time, strong container
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- 4. Stages** [Getting Acquainted, Building Relationships, Addressing Issues, Taking Action]
  - Specific intentions for each stage, intended outcomes, activities, keeper skill-set to manage
  -
- 5. Consensus**
  - Decision making tool of Circle, live with and support, practice with values, understand deeply, takes time and not always easy.
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- 6. Storytelling**
  - Spoken from the heart, wisdom of the lived experience, helping or healing check, 4 key points in Restorative Story (intro, incident, impact, reflection)
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# The Talking Peace

From the Heard Museum in Phoenix Arizona, a museum dedicated to American Indian cultures. Purchased from the gift shop in 2008 and used in a VOCARE session at Shakopee and many St. Croix Valley Restorative Justice Program Circles, and brought to the MN DOC quarterly facilitators meeting in 2011.

The beading in the Center represents the diversity of individuals. The random pattern and colors remind us that we are all unique in our own patterns. It takes many colors to make a design.



The horse hair attached represents the freedom, we have when we share with the talking peace. The beads, tightly woven, remind us to speak in a manner that does not exclude or isolate others.

The Circle at the top of the talking piece represents the Circle of Life, and the four aspects to being human, our physical, mental, emotional and spiritual lives. All aspects of our humanity are to be cared for and nourished.



The feather in the Center reminds us to take our selves 'lightly' to be gentle in our four directions and our four responsibilities: belonging, mastery, generosity, independence

The four beads remind us to be in the human family – mother/father/sister/brother.

The tool is being shared to bring peace, ease in dialogue, truth-telling, and the repairing of harm.

Mitakuye Oyasin (for all my relatives)

[www.reclaiming.com/content/about-circle-of-courage](http://www.reclaiming.com/content/about-circle-of-courage)



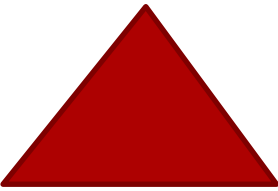
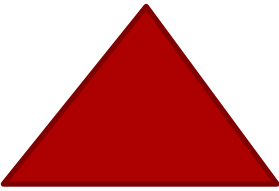
*Closed groups can reinforce alienation.*

*Restorative Justice Peacemaking Circles create collective community wisdom.*

Segment	Key points	Resources Needed
Intro of Circle Process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Briefly Explain RJ Philosophy (w/out negativity to formal systems) <i>Change of behavior by change of heart.</i></li> <li>2. Offer your role and connection</li> <li>3. Explain the elements of Circle, refer to name tags.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Listening, Respect, Truth, Turns (handout)</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Be sure to be POSITIVE about the structure of the Talking Piece (TP).</li> <li>5. Describe the difference, and the opening and closing</li> </ol>	Circle center set up Opening Reading or activity (Offer permission for it to feel awkward at first) Talking Pieces, center mat
Values & Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Specifically ask for people to think of a PERSON they have a close relationship with.</li> <li>2. Be slow in handing out items, allow time for everyone to tune into the directions.</li> <li>3. Carefully describe the relationship element (avoid calling it a VALUE – until later)</li> <li>4. Ask all to complete, gather markers.</li> <li>5. Restate the guidelines and use the TP first.</li> <li>6. Describe the specific ask this round, into self, what is on the plate and why.</li> <li>7. Ask for help in shaping the plates in a Circle.</li> <li>8. Describe why we focus on values, that these will be our way of relating to each other – “good for relationships outside of Circle, good to have in this Circle.</li> <li>9. Ask for commitment to efforts to do the best with these values, easy when using the TP. Describe why and what the commitment is.</li> <li>10. Clearly state the question and answer it, pass the piece.</li> <li>11. Re-enforce the commitment when the TP comes back to you.</li> </ol>	Plates, markers (You could explain a story about a talking piece to model opening up)
Building Relationships	2 or 3 rounds, starting simple moving too more detail.	Prepare questions, be flexible.
Addressing Issues	The topic or theme, make sure the concerns are expressed, or time for all stories to be related.	Prepare an open ended question.
Taking Action	The time to reflect on the “take aways” from Circle. A chance to share with other the connections made. Opportunity to share how the experience of Circle was experienced.  Closing	Prepared questions.  Reading/closing activity

# Elements of Restorative Justice adapted to serving Veterans

Table adapted from information found in War and The Soul by Edward Tick, PhD

Key Participants			
Veteran 	Victim 		
Loved ones of Veterans Non-Veteran	Offender Community		
Community Involvement			
<p>Actively participate with preparation work, training, learning and living the philosophy and process. A willingness to explore capacity, limitations and intentions.</p>			
<p>Rebuild dignity and rediscover inner peace by approaching paths to healing.            Provide an inner order, strength and meaning to help find a place in society.            Community reconciliation driven by the needs at the top of the triangle.</p>			
Storytelling			
<p><i>“Circles helped me retell my own stories to myself” – SCVRJP circle training participant</i></p> <p>Storytelling knits a community together – War and the Soul page 217</p> <p>It is important not only that the veteran tells his story but that he experiences it as being heard. – page 221</p> <p>Stories need to be told in a way that transfers the moral weight of the event from the individual to the community. – page 223</p>			



# “The work of restoration rebalance and heals the moral trauma at the heart of PTSD”

– Edward Tick

Table adapted from information found in War and The Soul by Edward Tick, PhD

<b>Veteran Needs</b>	<b>Restorative Justice Serves (severe crime)</b>
Intentional presence of community – for reintegration	Utilizing community mentors, returning belonging
Opportunities to reduce isolation and increase belonging	Promotes belonging, reintegration of victim and offenders
Trauma-informed approaches	Trauma sensitivity of Circle – structured/predictable/center/centering/invitational
Need to make peace with the dead (comrades and former enemies)	Make peace after intentional or unintentional homicide/fatal car crash – cope with self and others
PTSD management	PTSD management by Storytelling, service, helping others, preventing similar deaths
Bonds of War	Bonds of crime/violence
Vital human characteristics (how the mind organizes, functions, how we love and relate, what we believe and expect, value, feel, refuse to feel, what is good, right)	Crime that creates a loss so deep every fiber of the being is changed.
Transcending wounds to Post traumatic growth, surrounding the war experience with love, compassion, meaning and forgiveness.	The meaning making for survivors. View of pain and hurt, and healing hurt with values
Soul wound – Moral Injury – government response	Soul wound – moral injury – criminal justice process
Informal (and formal) support to process survivors guilt	Addresses guilt, provides process for atonement
“once the collective assumes responsibility for the war, the veteran’s PTSD symptoms begin to disappear” – page 237	RJ community members are trained in taking responsibility, addressing harms, needs, and obligations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is through the soul we experience our human uniqueness and spiritual depth.</li> <li>• The soul is the driver to create and preserve life, both biological and psychospiritual.</li> <li>• The souls fundamental needs for well-being are often ignored.</li> <li>• The soul is our intellectual power, which thinks, reasons and understands.</li> <li>• When we act in accord with the soul, we transform into real people, in discord we devolve.</li> </ul>	

