

Story Circle Planner and Facilitator Guide

Modify the following guide so it's useful to your story circle facilitator during the story circle event.

Agenda Item	Facilitator Notes
Open (5 minutes)	Insert specific expectations that the facilitator will communicate here: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is the purpose of the gathering? ● Are there meeting norms? ● What information will be kept confidential? What information will be shared toward creating school district plans? ● How much time will everyone have to share their stories? How will someone know when their time is up? ● What purpose does the talking piece serve? ● What makes a story? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A story has a beginning, a middle and an end. It's not time to perform, or offer opinions or commentary, but to share something you experienced or observed. Listening is as important as speaking. Each person receives full attention while telling their story. Listen for the essence of what's shared, however the storyteller wants to tell it.
Intros and Check-In (20 minutes)	Name, pronouns, who you represent, check-in question. For the largest groups.
Story Circle (20-40 minutes)	Select a prompt and determine how the group will need to split up, if necessary. Keep time! Example prompts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Share a story about an experience that made you smile. This could include a connection you had, a moment of pride, or a moment of joy. ● Share a story about a time you felt a sense of belonging—or the opposite—to this nation. ● Share a story about an element or object which grounds you (e.g. ocean, touchstone, etc.). ● Share a story about a mentor or ancestor who taught something important to you. ● Share a story about a time you encountered someone treating you differently because of who you are. ● Share a story about a time when you experienced despair and then hope. ● Share a story about familial migration. ● Share a story about a time when you experienced a moment of growth. ● Share a story.... [let it be open-ended and let the first story guide or inspire the next one].
Check-Out	If applicable, reassemble into the full group. For the largest groups, you

might need to remain in breakouts. “After today I feel more ____.”, “After today I’m inspired to ____.” Alternatively, synthesize the collective narrative through data collection using chart paper, taking notes on the sign-in sheet or by using ThoughtExchange. Some example prompts toward this end could be:

- What would make you feel more welcome at your child’s school? (parents)
- In your opinion, what would educational success look like for your child? (parents)
- Who do you feel most connected with at school? Why? (students)
- What’s most important for you to get from your school experience? (students)
- What would you like your role to be in the public school system? (community partner)