



Restorative Practices Video Guide

Created by



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Suggestions and Notes for Using This Guide:



Introduce the video/s and provide context for each (for example: *" These videos were taken in Baltimore City classrooms. They are not staged or re-enacted. The first video is of a __ grade class taken at __ school."*)



Tell participants that the videos are being used to observe and reflect on various uses for restorative circles in classrooms.



You may ask participants to take notes during the video of their general impressions, or you may post selected questions from the sample below for the audience to respond to.



Show selected video/s and if viewing more than one video please view and discuss them one at a time.



You may begin the discussion by asking for general feedback, impressions, and comments; or you may ask participants to respond to the questions posted. If you are in a large group, you may ask participants to "turn and talk" to one another in groups of 2-4, (depending on the size of the group) before reporting out to the entire group.



The questions below are intended to help facilitate discussion. Please feel free to add or omit questions as needed.



The video snapshots on each page serve as links to the videos. Please press Ctrl + Click on the picture.



This teacher asked many questions during the course of the restorative circle:

1. What do you think about the morning message? (Being present)
2. What do you think about the roll call song?
3. When students were asked to share their news – did you find any of the responses interesting?
4. What do you think about the topic the teacher chose on feeling powerful?
5. Did the teacher build in sufficient time for students to think?
6. Did the teacher subtly expand the meaning of what is powerful? Did you like/dislike this?
7. The teacher asked each student to say something nice about someone in the circle. Did you like this portion of the circle? Why/why not?
8. Did you notice any student receiving help from a classmate?
9. What do you think about student articulation in this circle? (For example one student responded the teacher's question "I haven't thought about it as yet.")
10. What do you think about the use of games to learn more about power and patience?
11. What was gained from the teacher's circle debrief?
12. What did you think about the teacher's use of vocabulary?



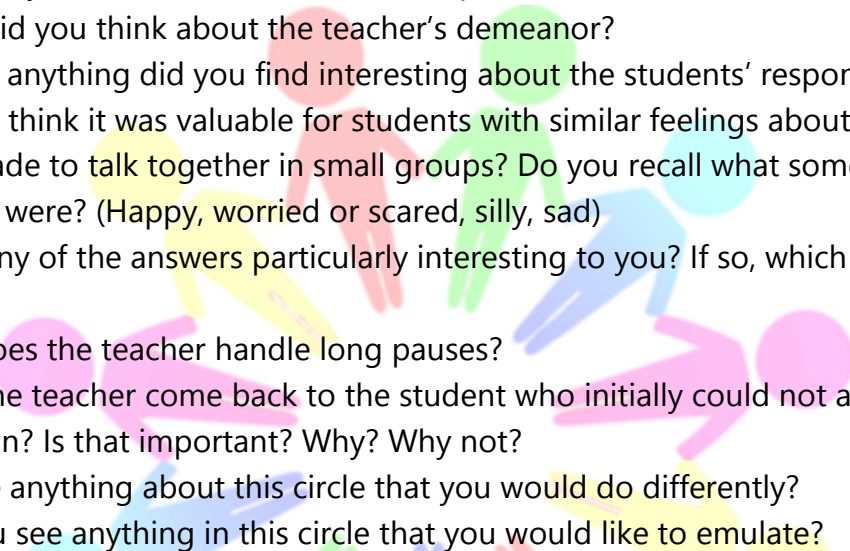
Baybrook Elementary/Middle School Kindergarten Circle




Teacher's question asked in video:

- How will you feel entering first grade next year?

Sample questions for discussion:

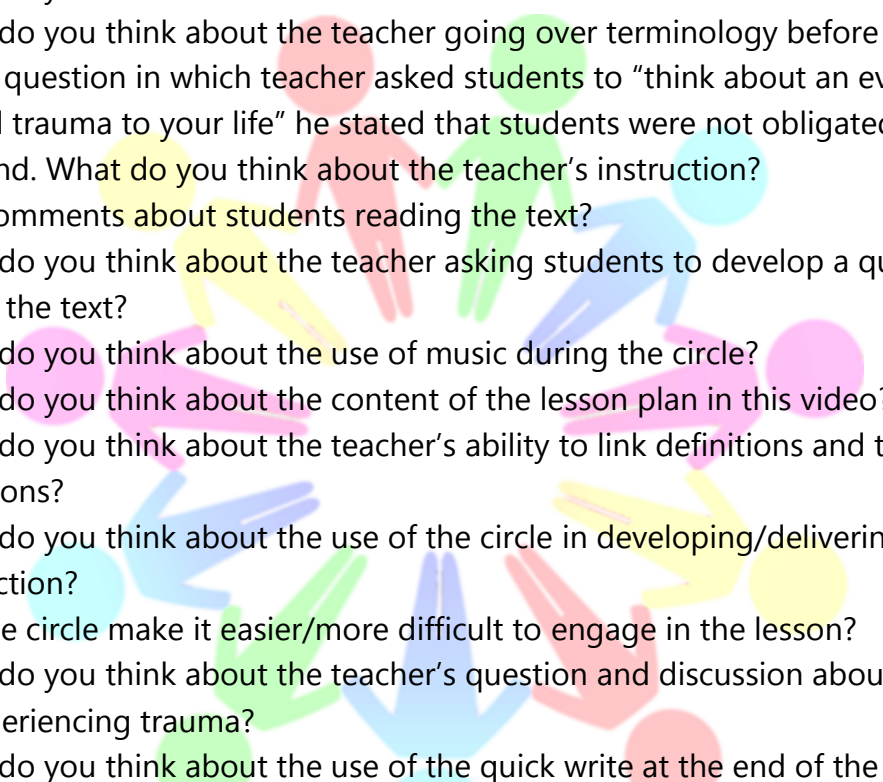
1. What do you think about the teacher's question?
 2. What did you think about the teacher's demeanor?
 3. What if anything did you find interesting about the students' responses?
 4. Do you think it was valuable for students with similar feelings about moving to first grade to talk together in small groups? Do you recall what some of those groups were? (Happy, worried or scared, silly, sad)
 5. Were any of the answers particularly interesting to you? If so, which ones and why?
 6. How does the teacher handle long pauses?
 7. Does the teacher come back to the student who initially could not answer the question? Is that important? Why? Why not?
 8. Is there anything about this circle that you would do differently?
 9. Did you see anything in this circle that you would like to emulate?
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City Springs Elementary/Middle School 8th Grade Instructional Circle



This teacher asked many questions during the course of the restorative circle:

1. The teacher began the lesson by asking students how they reduce stress in their lives. This question was not optional. What do you think about the teacher's instruction?
 2. What do you think about the use of mindfulness in the circle?
 3. What do you think about the teacher going over terminology before the lesson?
 4. In the question in which teacher asked students to "think about an event that added trauma to your life" he stated that students were not obligated to respond. What do you think about the teacher's instruction?
 5. Any comments about students reading the text?
 6. What do you think about the teacher asking students to develop a question about the text?
 7. What do you think about the use of music during the circle?
 8. What do you think about the content of the lesson plan in this video?
 9. What do you think about the teacher's ability to link definitions and text to circle questions?
 10. What do you think about the use of the circle in developing/delivering instruction?
 11. Did the circle make it easier/more difficult to engage in the lesson?
 12. What do you think about the teacher's question and discussion about the results of experiencing trauma?
 13. What do you think about the use of the quick write at the end of the circle?
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- A decorative illustration in the background of the list, featuring a circle of colorful hands (red, yellow, green, blue, purple) holding each other up, symbolizing support and community.



Hampstead Hill Elementary/Middle School 6th Grade Check-In Circle (End of School Year)

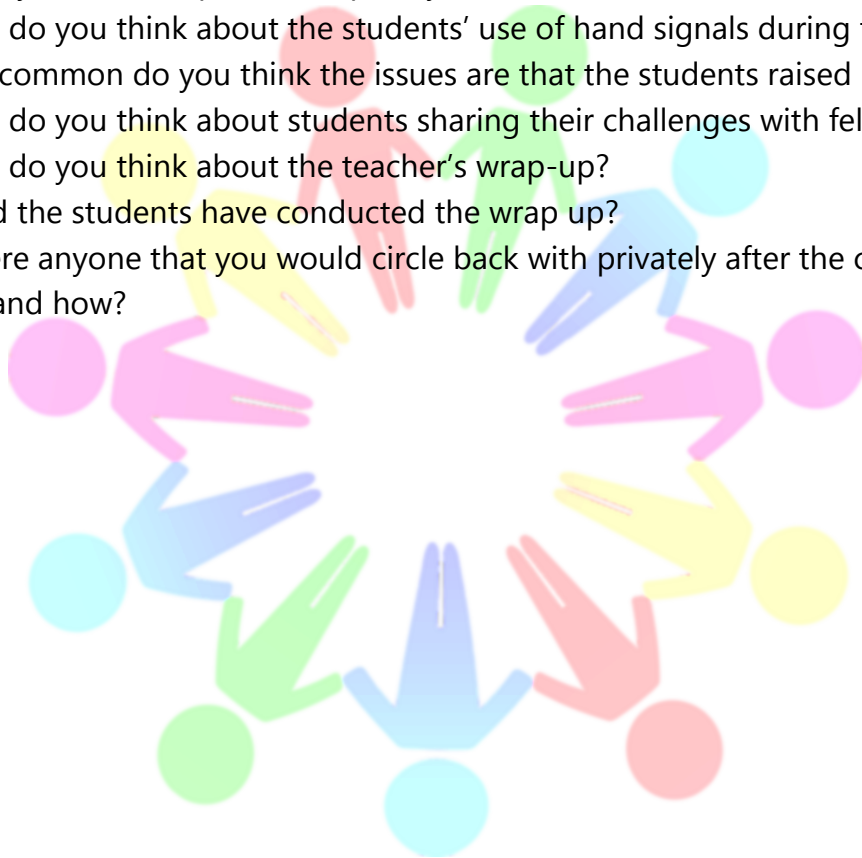


Teacher's questions asked in video:

- What is a challenge that you have encountered this year and how did you overcome that challenge?

Sample questions for group discussion:

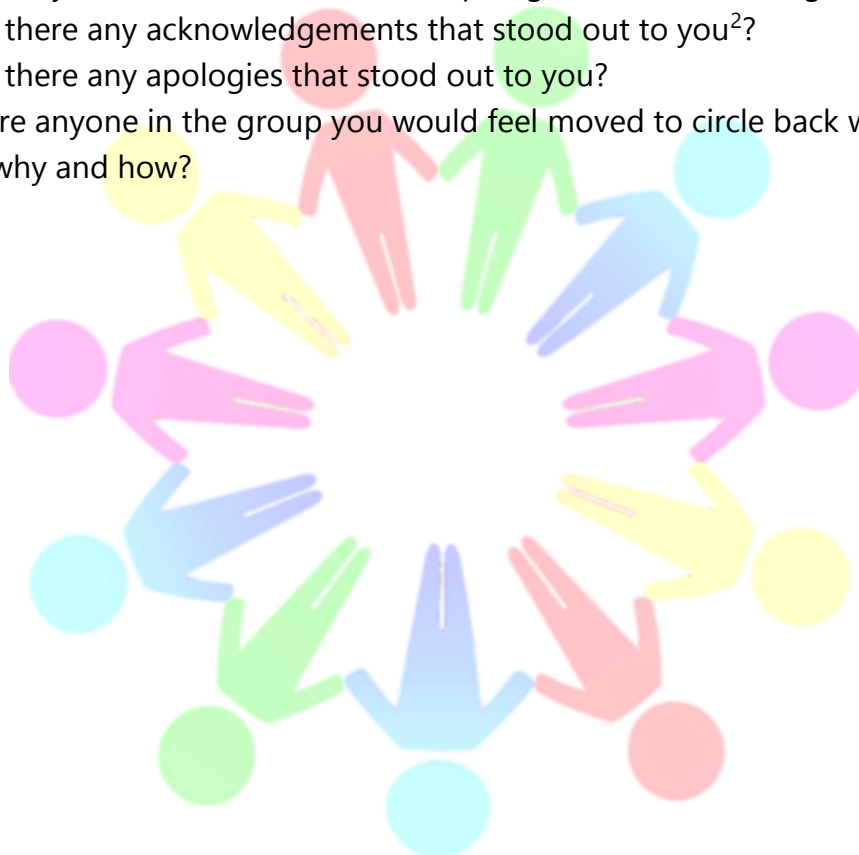
1. Did you find any of the students' responses interesting/noteworthy?
2. Did any student responses surprise you?
3. What do you think about the students' use of hand signals during the circle?
4. How common do you think the issues are that the students raised in this circle?
5. What do you think about students sharing their challenges with fellow students?
6. What do you think about the teacher's wrap-up?
7. Could the students have conducted the wrap up?
8. Is there anyone that you would circle back with privately after the circle? If so, why and how?






This circle is conducted among the entire middle school on a weekly basis. This was the last whole school circle of the school year.

1. What do you think about the use of the “turn and talk” during the circle?
2. What do you think about the use of “apologies and acknowledgements”?
3. Were there any acknowledgements that stood out to you²?
4. Were there any apologies that stood out to you?
5. Is there anyone in the group you would feel moved to circle back with privately? If so why and how?



² You might mention the student whose family members are suffering with leukemia and lung cancer if no one brings up this subject.)



Moravia Park Elementary School 4th Grade ESOL Class



Teacher's questions asked in video:

- Check-in circle: How are you feeling? What have you experienced? Is there anything you want to share?
- What do you like about circles?

Sample questions for group discussion:

1. What are your general impressions of the video we just watched¹?
2. Did any of the children seem reluctant to share in the circle? Is that ok?
3. Was there evidence that the children in the circle felt comfortable/uncomfortable sharing? Why is this important?
4. Why might circles be especially important to an ESOL class?
5. Is there anything that you might have done differently?
6. Was there anything about the circle that you would like to emulate?
7. If you could speak to this teacher what would you ask her?



For more information on Restorative Practices, please visit our [website](#).

You can also use our [Restorative Practices Lesson Plan Guide](#) to get started!