

LEARNING EXCHANGE PROTOCOL DOUBLE CIRCLE 2

Note: All protocols have multiple origins. The strength of a protocol is in the ability of facilitators or planners to adjust/revise for use in your context. <http://www.nsrharmony.org/free-resources/protocols/a-z> is a good source of multiple protocols for school, district, community and organizational use. This protocol originated with ArtCorp <http://www.artcorp.org>

The DOUBLE CIRCLE offers an opportunity for dialogue – hearing the ideas and reflections of others who have been through a similar experience. The double circle protocols is particularly useful in fortifying our collective effort to believe in the power of the collective to effect change. And at times, it is useful for hearing the experiences of youth or persons who do not have more dominant roles in the group. This process can be adapted but should attend to the principles of the learning exchange: the importance of shared dialogue, listening and collective wisdom.

Create double circles of about 20 persons on inside facing out and 20 persons on outside facing a person. Number of circles depends on size of group.

These parts of the protocol for the circle talk can vary:

- The persons on the inside (or outside) can be designated group (by age, role, or identity). For example youth/elders or people of color/white people or teacher/school leader.
- You can designate the inner circle as speakers and outer circle as listeners.
- OR You can designate the use of appreciative listening protocols (two minutes per person – inside and outside-- to listen and then trade).

These parts of the protocol should not vary:

- The purpose of the protocol is to listen carefully to the ideas and experience/reflections of the partners.
- The circle process should have outer circle participants move at least three times.
- After the final encounter, the outer circle person has a longer conversation with the inner circle person. After last encounter, the partners will reflect on what is in their heart after having heard from others and share a story of how they got started with their work for justice.
- Debrief the process by sharing what you noticed as you listened/moved etc.

You will need to create the groups you think are important and decide on the questions for reflection.

EXAMPLE: For this Double Circle, we will have three rotations + fourth reflection rotation. After the three rotations that use the same question, move to fourth person and share what the experience of double circle was like.

- Use appreciative listening protocol (2 min to respond to question fully listening first to inner circle; when signaled, 2 min for outer circle person to speak).
Question: How have the LLE experiences strengthened your initiative to “each day mean one more” in our quest for justice in our schools and communities?
- After third encounter, move to the fourth person
Question: How has the experience of the double circle and the LLE been a moving force for change in you?