

LEARNING EXCHANGE PROTOCOL

DOUBLE CIRCLE 1: YOUTH AND ELDERS

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 can be used for multiple audiences. The facilitators need to decide what the two groups are and what the purpose of having a conversation might be. This offers an example of how to construct the double circle with youth and adults.

Participants stand (or sit) in double circle formation. (45 min)

SET-UP

- Inner circle stands or sits and faces out. (EXAMPLE: YOUTH)
- Outer circle stands or sits and faces in. (EXAMPLE: ELDERS OR ADULTS)
- The two groups will have a series of encounters (3-4 is usually a good number). The outer circle will simply listen. They will have an opportunity to speak after the third encounter.

DEVELOP QUESTIONS FOR INNER CIRCLE.

- Develop 1-3 questions for the inner circle reflection and storytelling. Example: Young people will respond to the following prompts:
 - What is it like to be a young person in this world, at this time?
 - What do you need? What questions are you grappling with?
 - What is your sacred role - how are you contributing to construct a more just and inclusive world?

PROCESS

- Facilitator announces questions and gives some thinking time.
- Each interaction of listening by outer circle is 3-4 minutes long.
- After 3-4 minutes, facilitator will ring a bell. The outer circle will move one person to the right.
- After last encounter, the outer circle will speak to last encounter and reflect on what is in their hearts after having heard from the inner circle and share a story with last encounter on inner circle of how they relate to topic or questions.

DEBRIEF