**Responsive Circles**

***Also called Conflict Resolution Circles, Repairing Harm Circles, Problem-Solving Circles…***

Responsive circles are used to process and respond to a conflict, oftentimes a violation of a class agreement, school expectation, or even a law. Each circle will be unique to the circumstances and should be tailored to meet the needs of the participants.

***Goals***

* Students take responsibility for their role in the problem
* Students share their perspective and feelings
* Students come up with a solution and commit to what they will each do to reach the desired outcome
* The students who contributed to the problem understand the impact they caused, but keep their good name and do not feel stigmatized or shamed

***Tips for a Successful Circle***

* **Regular**, **consistent use of proactive circles** create a strong foundation for successful problem-solving circles

Ideally, 80% of circles should be Proactive, 20% Responsive

* **Frame the purpose of the circle as problem-solving**, rather than to “catch a culprit” or as punishment
* As facilitator, set the **tone** by being vulnerable about how the behavior impacts you
* Identify and prep a few **student allies** who can help the circle be successful
* Follow the Circle Agenda – Opening, Purpose, Ground rules, Prompts, Closing
* Be thoughtful about **timing and location**
* Include the students who want things to go well *and* the students who are causing disruption. **Everyone is a part of the community**.



Restorative Questions

Provide a Roadmap