Circle Time on Differences

* Review the circle guidelines with students….

1. **Respect the talking piece. Everyone listens and everyone has a turn so be mindful on the amount of time of your response.**
2. **Be respectful with our words and actions**
3. **Have fun but don’t try and be funny, not a time for funny.**
4. **Keep it 100… Keep it REAL**
5. **Honor Confidentiality…What is said in circle stays in circle, but no guarantee**

* Have students give you a thumbs up or thumbs down on willingness to participate in group. If thumbs down… which one do you not agree with? How can we make it work for you?
* Redirect students that are not ready to an alternate assignment.
* If you don’t want to share say no thank you and pass the piece to the next person.
* **Thank the students for sitting and participating**. Reason that you have chosen to circle up is so that everyone gets an opportunity to learn more about one another. Explain that it is very important as their counselor/teacher that you build a relationship with each and every one of them to better help and meet their needs. Challenge them to participate in the circle.
* **Review the three ways to actively participate in circle**

1. Be an active listener
2. Raise your hand for a clarifying question, NOT A COMMENT and limit the questions to 3
3. Thumbs up and Thumbs down

* **Introduction:** In many ways we are all different and in many ways we are all the same. Sometimes we see our differences as a good thing and sometimes we see them as a bad thing. Sometimes people make fun of our differences and make us feel bad about them (think time).

* **Introduce the talking piece/Explain why you chose it?**

Picture frame (pride in ourselves), broken crayon (feeling bad about differences), pair of glasses (different from others), mirror (love yourself)

**Circle Open**: Select one of the following:

**Quote**: “It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.” – Audre Lorde

**YOU TUBE**: Video Birds on a Wire-www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2PJ6T7U2eU

* **Discussion Round**

1.Write on a card or have them think one thing that makes you different from others.

2. Without sharing your difference, give a thumbs up if you love that quality about yourself, a sideways thumb if you’re okay with it or thumbs down if you don’t like it.

3. Without sharing your difference, stand if others appreciate that difference and stay sitting if someone has made fun of you about that difference.

4. Think about how those sitting feel about being made fun of (think time). Think of how the standers feel about being appreciated (think time). Have you ever been the reason that another person stayed seated? (think time).

5. What can we do to help “bridge gaps” between differences?

6. Share your quality and why it makes you “unique”. Feel free to pass

**Closing**: Read quote and then let them share thoughts

