



START OFF THE YEAR WITH
**RESTORATIVE
PRACTICES**

Here are a few circle ideas
to get your year started in a
PROACTIVE way...





NEW CLASS, NEW NORMS...

CIRCLE TOPIC

Creating Classroom Norms

TYPE OF CIRCLE

Sequential

PURPOSE/GOAL OF CIRCLE

To ensure all students have a voice in the creation of the classroom norms.

CIRCLE QUESTIONS

- Think about a positive classroom learning experience. Name one or two things that contributed to that experience.
- What do you need in a classroom environment to be able to learn?
- What norms do think would contribute to an environment that will contribute to your learning? (Record the norms on a poster.)
- Name one thing you can do to contribute to a positive learning environment.

NOTES

These questions can be adapted to any grade level. You may also consider having everyone in the class sign the norms poster when it is complete. When new people enter the classroom community you can have a quick norming circle to introduce them to the class and the norms and ask if they have anything to add. The classroom norms will become a living document as the year goes on.



R-E-S-P-E-C-T

CIRCLE TOPIC

Respect

TYPE OF CIRCLE

Sequential or non-sequential

PURPOSE/GOAL OF CIRCLE

To create an understanding of the word respect and what will respect will look like in this classroom.

CIRCLE QUESTIONS

- Think of a time when you felt respected. Think of one or two words to describe that experience.
- Think of a time when you felt disrespected. Think of one or two words to describe that experience.
- How would you define respect? What does it look like and sound like? (Record answers.)
- How would you like to be shown respect?
- How can you show respect to your classmates and teacher in this class?

NOTES

Respect seems to be a topic that often is discussed in schools in regard to discipline. Students may be seen as being disrespectful and may have a consequence as a result of said disrespect. This circle allows students to have voice in what respect means to them and creates clear expectations of how respect will be defined in a classroom. This circle will also allow students and adults to talk about respect being a two-way street. These questions can be adapted to any grade level.



IT CAN BE ALL FUN AND GAMES

CIRCLE TOPIC

Community Building

TYPE OF CIRCLE

Sequential or non-sequential

PURPOSE/GOAL OF CIRCLE

To get to know one another and to have fun.

MATERIALS

You will need a beach ball and a permanent marker. Before the circle write get-to-know-you questions (grade level appropriate) on the beach ball.

CIRCLE QUESTIONS

- What is one summertime activity that you like to participate in?
- In a non-sequential go around, have participants throw the ball to each other and answer the question that is closest to their right thumb. Do as many tosses as you have time for.
- What is one thing that you learned about someone in the circle?

NOTES

This activity can be done as a warm-up to begin the class or a check-out to end the class. This activity can also be adapted to academics and can be done as a review before a test. Just write a review question on the ball, and it can be used over and over.