Story Circles (UNESCO)

Story Circles

involve the sharing of personal experiences in small groups for the development of intercultural competence such as empathy, cultural and self-awareness.

Story Circles

work on the premises that:

- Everyone has personal experiences to share
- We can all learn from each other
- <u>Listening for understanding</u> can change us

Story Circles
How does it work?

Size: groups of 3-6

Time: 90-120 minutes

Procedure: Participants are given prompts that address intercultural competence to which they respond in turn while their group mates listen for understanding.

No questions or comments are allowed while a member of the group is speaking in order to minimize judgement and maximize understanding. A safe space is created.

Two rounds of storytelling are followed by a final group discussion

Time: 1 minute per person

Prompt: Please tell us your name and the story about your name. (e.g. what does it mean? How did you come to have this name?)

Rules:
- Please do not give verbal or non-verbal comments during someone's story.
- Each person keeps their own time so one will be interrupted when their time is up.

Story Circles
Let's give it a try!

Time: 3 minutes per person

Prompt: What is a memorable experience you have had with a person(s) who is different from you (age, religion, gender, culture, etc.), and what did you learn about yourself and/or the other person in that experience?

Rules:
- Please do not give verbal or non-verbal comments during someone's story.
- Each person keeps their own time so one will not be interrupted when their time is up.

Story Circles Discussion

Time: 3 minutes

Discussion Prompts:

What is memorable to you about what you heard?

What do you want to explore further after hearing these stories?

Story Circles

are currently being used in contexts such as:
- Education
- International projects
- Community development
- Healthcare training etc.

Intercultural Competence in Higher Education
International Approaches, Assessment and Application

Edited by Darla K. Deardorff and Lily A. Arasaratnam-Smith

INTERNATIONALIZATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

ROUTLEDGE FOCUS

MANUAL FOR DEVELOPING INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCIES

Story Circles

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