

ANNEX 4: STORY CIRCLES



INSTRUCTIONS

If this is a face-to-face story circle:

- Sit in circle.
- Agree on a nonverbal sign to indicate the end of someone´s allotted time.
- Agree on who will start (it can be done by chance, or by choosing the person whose birthday is closest to today, for example).
- Once the first person has finished, it will be that on his/her right who will take the floor.

If this is an online story circle:

- Agree on a nonverbal sign to indicate the end of someone´s allotted time.
- Students will write their names on the screen box or have their names written somewhere the rest of participants can see.
- Agree on who will start (it can be done by chance, or by choosing the person whose birthday is closest to today, for example). The order made for the first time (step 1, presentation) will be maintained through all the activity.
- Once the first person has finished, she/he will name the person to follow; and so on.

There will be 4 moments:



Introduction

In two minutes or less, students will introduce themselves by saying their name, and 3 things that characterizes them: hobbies, someone they admire, a particular film or book they have as reference...

No interruptions, comments, or questions.

2 Stories

In three minutes or less, students will share their experience with “environmental change and migration”: contents and activities that have been more relevant to him/her (and why), ways in which the program relates to his/her own life; personal changes this program may have led to...

No interruptions, comments, or questions

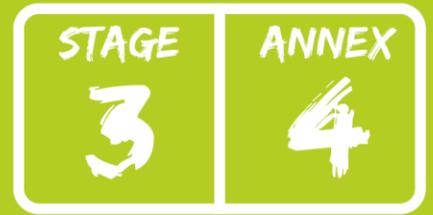
3 Flashback

Go back to the first story and each person (other than the storyteller) shares something they specially remember from that person’s presentation (15 seconds or less). Then go to the second story and so on, until “flashbacks” have been shared for all the stories told.

4 Discussion

Together, students will discuss some of the following questions in the remaining time:

- What common themes did you hear from the stories?
- What differences did you identify?
- What surprised you?
- What challenged you in the stories you heard?
- What did you learn about yourself through this experience?



Remember

- Every person has a personal experience that can be shared.
- We all have something to learn from others
- Listening for understanding can be transformational

Story circle guidelines include:

- Maintain confidentiality
- Be yourself
- Speak from your own experience only
- Be genuine and authentic
- Keep the sharing simple, clear, and focused
- Uphold positive intent
- Be comfortable in your own style

Story circle goals related to intercultural competencies development and communicating across difference:

- Demonstrate respect for others
- Practice listening and understanding
- Cultivate curiosity about similarities and differences with others
- Gain increased cultural self-awareness
- Develop empathy
- Engage in critical reflection of one's own intercultural competencies development, as well as on the intercultural experience
- Develop relationship with culturally different others

From UNESCO (2020) *Manual for developing intercultural competencies. Story Circles*. Available in <https://usheartlandchina.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Story-Circles.pdf>

