



Modeling the Virtual Circle Companion Guide and Additional Resources

While you view this recorded virtual restorative circle, it may be helpful to look for the elements of traditional circle practice to see what they look and feel like in a Zoom meeting. Other platforms, such as Circle.es and Parlay, offer different ways to set up a circle online.

This companion guide will mark the spot on the recording where you can immediately find a specific circle element, technique, or feature of online circle practice. In case you are worried about not doing everything right, here are two timestamps that show *perfectly imperfect* moments: 2:09, 8:35. No harm done, and the circle went on.

Elements of circle that look different from traditional circle practice include the configuration of the circle, the use of the chat box to establish the order of sharing, the absence of a visible centerpiece, the use of individual talking pieces and the changed nature of passing the piece. This is just one way to do it.

- : 34** Setting an intention for the circle and describing the theme; in this case, of staying connected with others during physical distancing.

- : 55** One example of an “opening ceremony”

- 1:40** Use of a virtual talking piece 1:40 to change the space and pace,
- 7:00** The “why” of talking piece
- 10:50** One way to pass the talking piece online

- 3:55** One example of a mindfulness activity

- 6:40** Circle agreements that reflect online environment

- 9:23** Check in round that reflects individual talking pieces

- 11:00** Posting the order of sharing in the chat box
- 19:50** Transition to a new round
- 20:10** Round 1: give the first prompt; facilitator and co-facilitator respond first, to set the model
- 33:40** Transition between rounds can honor or connect to the theme of sharing or a specific share to summarize or close the round.
- 33:12** Round 2, related to the theme but expands in a new direction.
- 41:54** Closing activity. While this circle demonstrated the use of quotations or poetry to open and close the space, there are non-text options including music, video clip or shared physical movement.
- 43:08** Check out-- in this case, a shared gesture and farewells.

Additional resources for Restorative Circles:

Circle Forward: Building a Restorative School Community

Carolyn Boyes-Watson & Kay Pranis

****A book of circle templates for many different scenarios**

Circle in the Square: Building Community and Repairing Harm in School

Nancy Riestenberg

The Little Book of Circle Processes

Kay Pranis

“Cultivating Restorative School Communities”. Solano County Office of Education: Tier 1 MTSS, Restorative Circles

[https://www.solanocoe.net/uploaded/Departments/Student_and_Program_Support/Restorative_Practices/Circle_Resource_packet_\(Dec_2017\).pdf](https://www.solanocoe.net/uploaded/Departments/Student_and_Program_Support/Restorative_Practices/Circle_Resource_packet_(Dec_2017).pdf)

