

Challenges to Face Using Circle Applications in the Classroom

How do you get students interested in circle?

- do a variety of circles
- more fun than serious or problem solving
- when introducing the circle to the class tell them they will input into circle topics and ideas

How do I get students to listen to each other in the circle?

- conduct a circle that is of interest and fun for the students
- be creative - if too many students are sitting close to friends, call out a color, have them stand, then exchange places with other students across the circle
- have those who are goofing around or not following agreed upon rules to sit out of the circle, yet in the room so they can still listen

How to get students to share or talk in the circle?

- encourage students not to pass or create an agreement that you can pass only once during the circle
- ask the students if they like it when a variety of people share in the circle...talk about how every persons opinion is important

How do I get students not to talk so long with the talking piece?

- the circle keeper can set up their question by stating..."In one sentence, tell me your wish for the school."
- ask them to show by a facial expression (ex. How much do you like pizza?)
- develop an agreed upon hand signal to indicate to them it is time to wrap it up in 15 seconds
- ask them to use their hand to indicate how they feel on a particular subject (ex. show me with your hand how you feel today) 1 finger indicates not so good up to five which indicates great - using appropriate fingers

How do I get more parents involved in circle?

- invite them in through a classroom letter or student made invitation
- encourage the students to go home and talk to their parents about the day's circle
- make talking pieces at school, take them home and encourage them to have a talking circle with family members, friends etc.

There is not enough time for circle?

- commit to having a circle once a week and build from there if you can/want
- Incorporate the circle in to your teaching by using the circle to brainstorming the writing topic for the day, reviewing for the test, or be summarizing the two chapters that were read for homework