

Georgia Southern University

Digital Commons@Georgia Southern

National Cross-Cultural Counseling and
Education Conference for Research, Action, and
Change

2021 Virtual Conference Archive (February
11-12, 2021)

Feb 12th, 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

Reaching and Teaching All Students: Facilitating Restorative Circles for Community Building and Academic Success in the School Environment

Summer Pannell

Stephen F. Austin State University, summer.pannell@sfasu.edu

Juliann Sergi McBrayer

Georgia Southern University, jmcbrayer@georgiasouthern.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/ccec>



Part of the [Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Pannell, Summer and McBrayer, Juliann Sergi, "Reaching and Teaching All Students: Facilitating Restorative Circles for Community Building and Academic Success in the School Environment" (2021). *National Cross-Cultural Counseling and Education Conference for Research, Action, and Change*. 31. <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/ccec/2021/2021/31>

This event is brought to you for free and open access by the Conferences & Events at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in National Cross-Cultural Counseling and Education Conference for Research, Action, and Change by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.



National Institute for
Restorative Discipline

Reaching and Teaching All Students: Facilitating Restorative Circles for Community Building and Academic Success in the School Environment

Presented at:
2021 National Cross-Cultural
Counseling and Education Conference

Summer S. Pannell, PhD – National Institute for Restorative Discipline
Juliann Sergi-McBrayer, EdD – Georgia Southern University

www.RestorativeDisciplineInstitute.com



Session Objectives:



Examine the origin of restorative circles and how they came to the US



Analyze the 7 core assumptions of restorative practices



Identify the essential elements of restorative circles



Explore the circle format and guidelines for conducting a circle



Explore a Relationship Building Circle and an Academic Circle



Identify how circles can be utilized in the classroom and whole-school uses of circles



Identify the power and challenges of circles

What is Restorative Discipline?

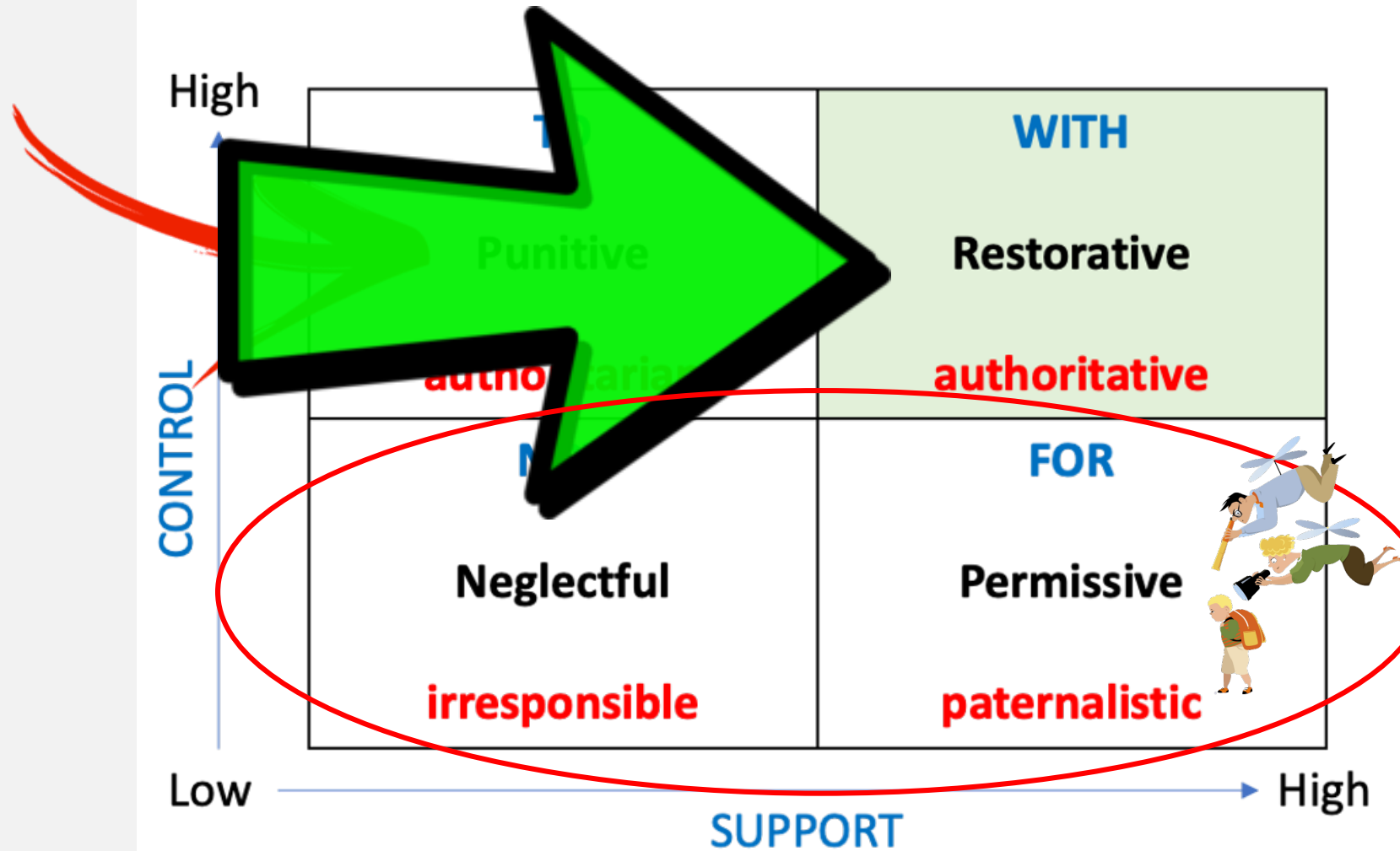


- **Transformational strategies** that can be seamlessly integrated into the **classroom, curriculum, and culture** of schools to **address conflict, improve school climate, build a positive school culture, and foster respectful, trusting relationships** among all members of the school community.

Mindset



Restorative Mindset?





SWITCHING THE DISCIPLINE MINDSET

APPROACHING DISCIPLINE WITH A
RESTORATIVE MINDSET



Punitive

Fear

Teachers command respect through warnings and threats

Rules

Teachers enforce rules to keep students quiet and working

Control

Teachers tell students when they are doing something wrong

Anger

Teachers seem angry and blame students when they misbehave

Punishment

Good behavior is based on fear of punishment

Restorative

Respect

Teachers gain respect by modeling it for their students

Engagement

Classes are engaging so students want to work and conversation is allowed

Support

Students reflect on their behavior and consider changes they can make

Understanding

Teachers use a gentle tone and show understanding when students misbehave

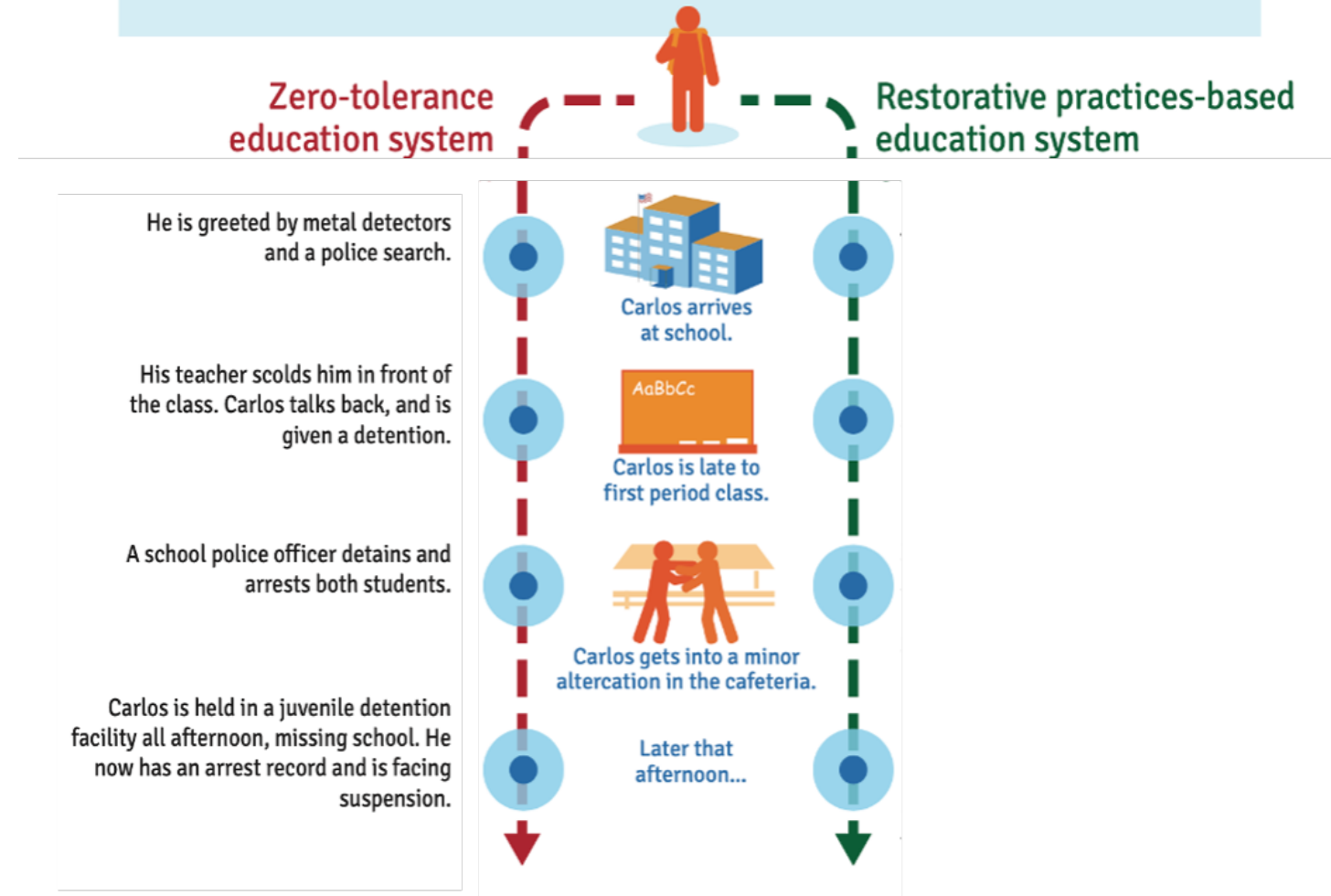
Reflection

Good behavior is based on an internal desire to do the right things

Why Restorative Discipline?

A Tale of Two Schools

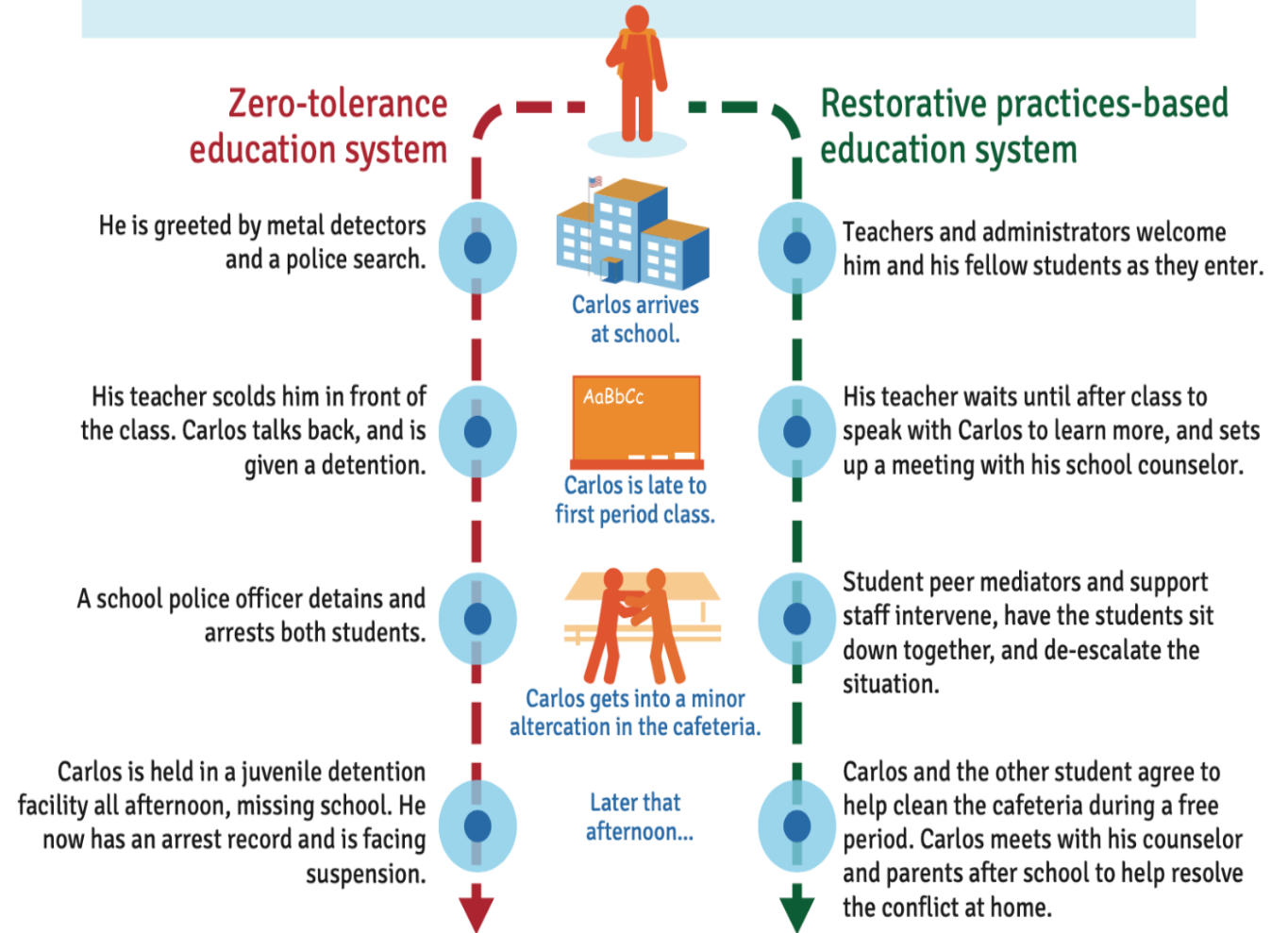
Carlos had a heated argument with his parents before leaving for school, so he's running late. Let's see the difference that restorative policies and practices can make.



Why Restorative Discipline?

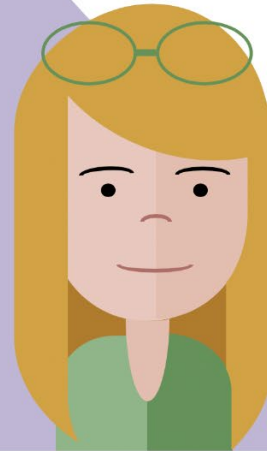
A Tale of Two Schools

Carlos had a heated argument with his parents before leaving for school, so he's running late. Let's see the difference that restorative policies and practices can make.



Why Restorative Discipline?

Allison, High School Teacher



While conflicts of which I've been a part often began with raised voices and closed ears, through restorative approaches they have ended in smiles, handshakes, and hugs. This seems more healthful for interpersonal relationships and overall school culture than traditional, reactionary discipline measures.

Samantha, Middle School Student



Instead of learning from our behavior, schools just force us out without real conversations and interventions. Suspensions don't work, summonses don't work, and arrests don't work. Keep us in the classroom, keep us accountable, and build relationships. That works!

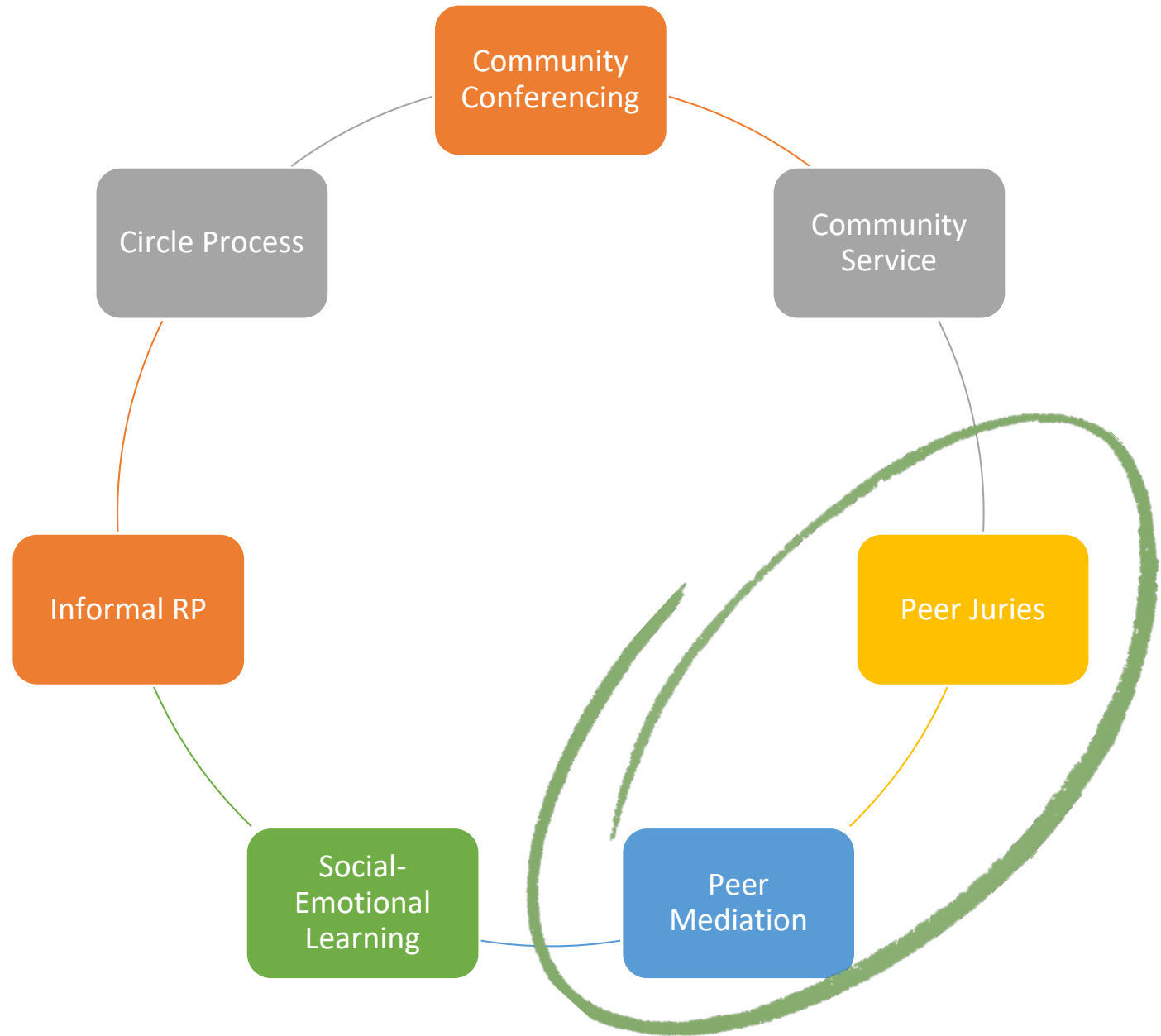
Why Restorative Discipline?

Building relationships, promoting cultural and self awareness, building community, and instilling accountability for all!

It Works!



Types of Restorative Discipline?



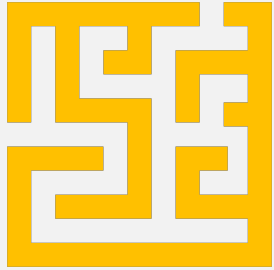


The Indigenous Circles & How Non-Natives Learned About Them



7 Core Assumptions of Restorative Practices: What We Believe



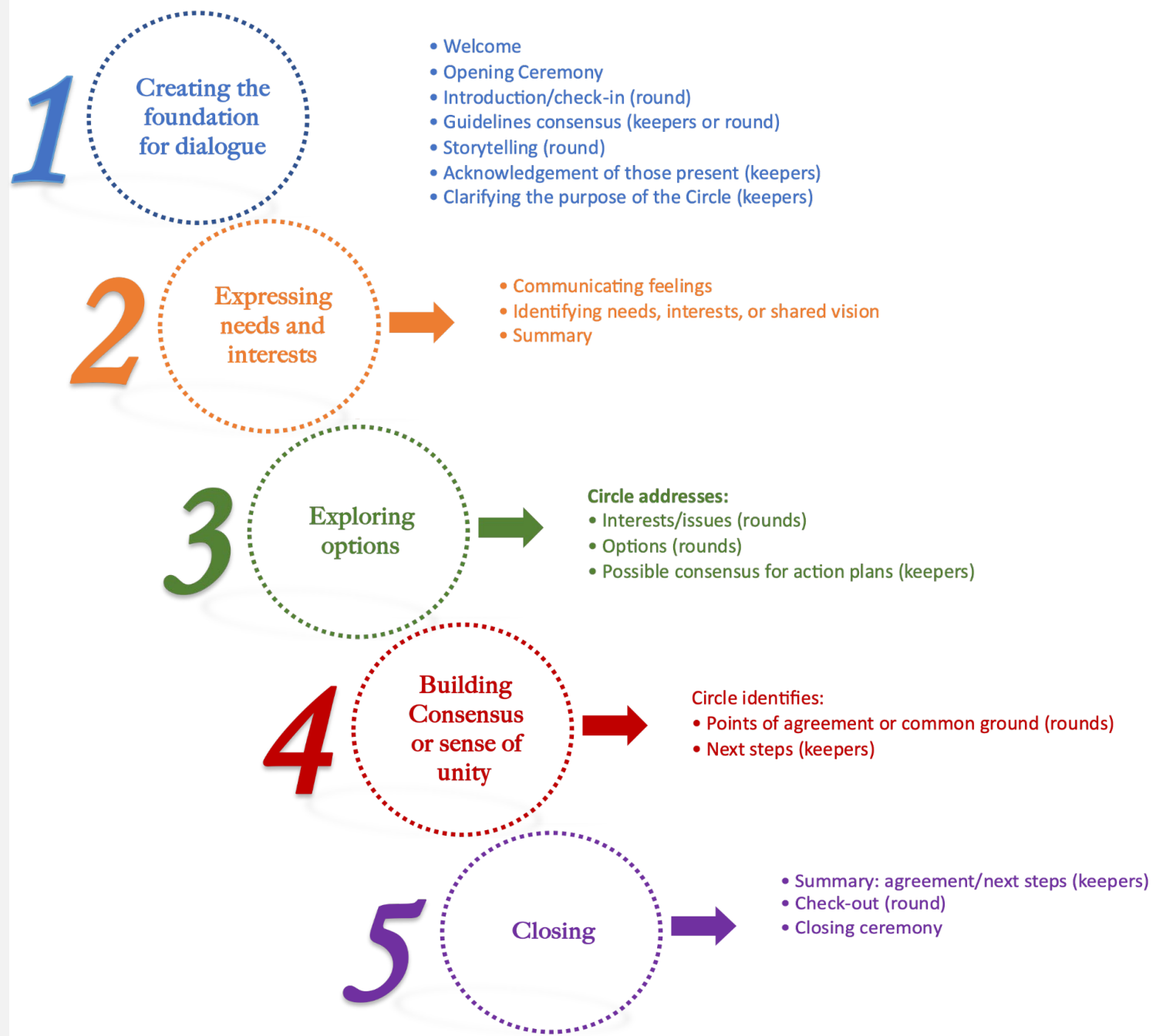


Essential Elements of Restorative Circles





Circle Format



TIP:

Add hand signals to each guideline for recall and reinforcement



Sample Circle Guidelines



Values Circle

(Sample Lesson Plan)

| PURPOSE | MATERIALS | ROOM SET-UP |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a direct experience of being in a Circle • Introduce the basic elements of a Circle | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking Piece (Find one that is meaningful) • Colored Paper/Paper Plates/Index Cards • Markers/Crayons • Agenda | <p>Prior to the Circle, set the room up in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairs in a large circle • Agenda, Purpose, and Circle guidelines posted on the wall |

A. Introduction and Welcome (Name/Position/Yrs Exp)

B. Experiencing the Circle

- **Purpose of the Circle:** Community building circles strengthen relationships by sharing mutual values with one another
- **Role of the Circle Keeper:** You are the guide who introduces the prompt and keeps the Circle a safe place
- **Share the Circle guidelines:** The guidelines will help ensure a safe place for connection and learning
 - **Respect the Talking Piece**
 - **Speak from the heart** – share your experiences, perspectives, and feelings
 - **Listen from the heart** – let go of stories that make it hard to hear one another, be open and non-judgmental
 - **What happens in the Circle stays in the Circle** – excluding mandatory report issues
 - **Trust you will know what to say** – there is no need to rehearse
 - **Say just enough** – be considerate of time when sharing
- **Ask:** *Are these guidelines something to which we can all agree?
Is there anything missing from the list that we need to add?
Can I get a thumbs up?*

Values Circle

(Sample Lesson Plan)

AGENDA

Opening: icebreaker activity to introduce everyone

Introduce the talking piece. (Share why you chose it)

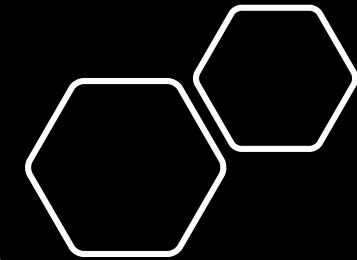
Circle Round 1:

- **First Circle Prompt:** *Tell me a value you learned as a child.* (Have Circle participants write value on colored paper and place on floor in front of them when they share)
 - Ask a volunteer to start; prior to answering, have him/her state which way the Talking Piece will be passed
- **Ask:** Do you think these are some values we can use as we work together? Thumbs up or down.

Circle Round 2:

- **Second Circle Prompt:** *Tell me a proud moment in education for you.*

Circle Reflection: *What is your takeaway?* (Ask reflective question)



Common Values

Academic Circle

(Sample Lesson Plan –
Compound Words)



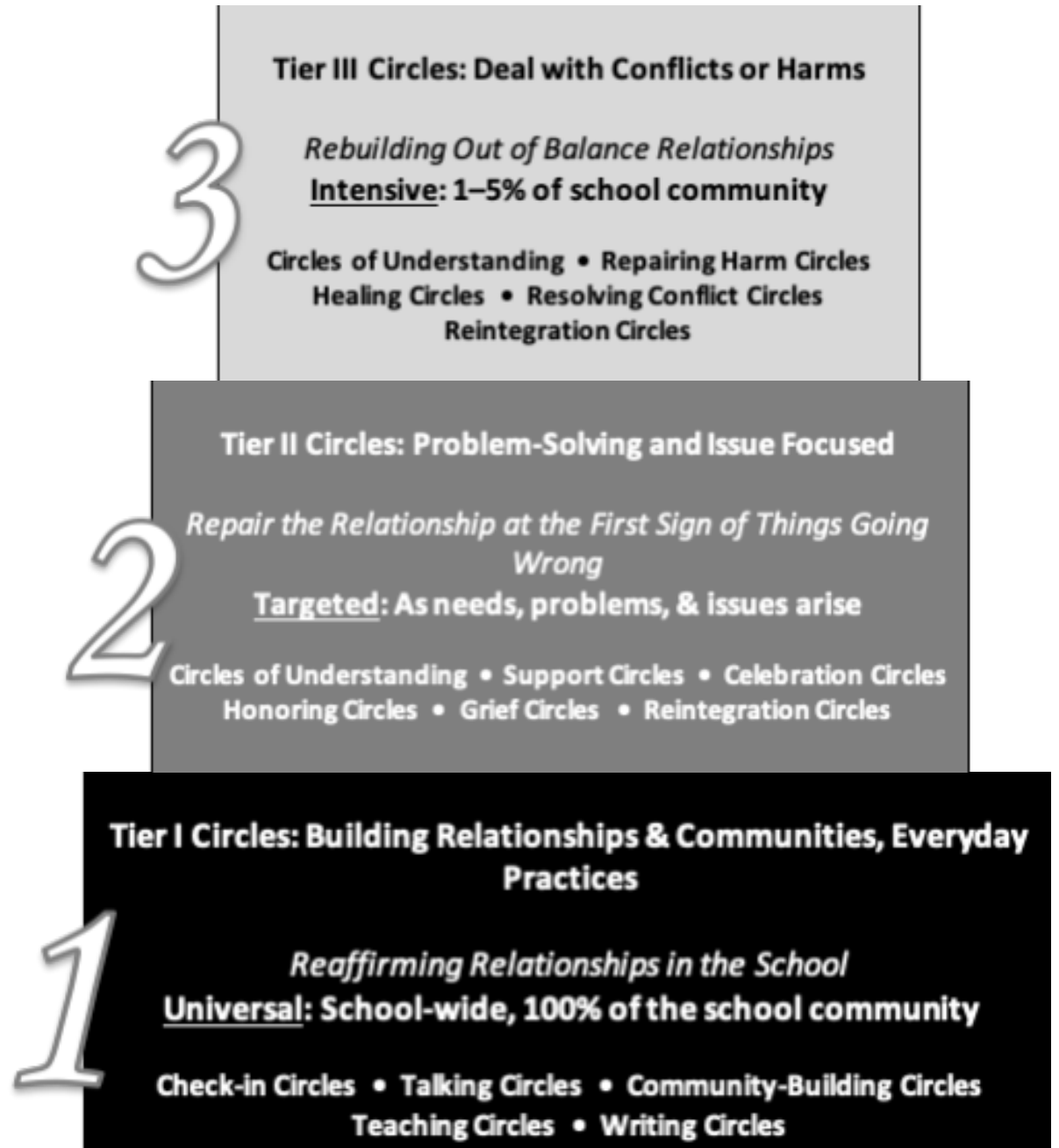
| Activity | Comments |
|--|---|
| Opening: <i>Nonsense Words</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Teacher gives definition and example of compound words.Students provide a nonsense compound word. |
| Values: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">If values are already established through Community Building Circles, do not redo values. Just remind students values are in play.If values haven't been established, choose a value to reinforce. |
| First Prompt: | Tell us what you know about compound words. |
| Second Prompt: | We are going to play the I have – Who has? game. We will use the color cards to make compound words. |
| Reflection: | Tell us how/where you can use compound words. |
| Closing: | Make compound words without talking. Tape compound words on students' backs and have them walk around the room to find matching word to make a compound word. |
| Notes: | (Who didn't participate?) (What didn't go well.) |



What are some ways you can think of to integrate circles into your academic content?



Whole School Uses of Circles





Power & Challenges of Circles



What do you see as the *potential power* of Circles in your school?

What do you see as the *potential challenges* to Circles in your school?



National Institute for Restorative Discipline

Visit us: www.RestorativeDisciplineInstitute.com

Our Partners:



Thank You!

Dr. Summer Pannell

Director

National Institute for Restorative Discipline

 info@theNLDC.com