

Inner Outer Circle

Information Processing: Activating and Engaging, Exploring and Discovering

PROCESS

- Form an inner circle facing outward and an outer circle facing inward, with one-to-one correspondence.
- Inner-circle people respond to first prompt. Example: “As a student, my favorite teacher . . .” or “Students in grade 6 should . . .”
- Outer-circle people paraphrase the inner circle people. Because paraphrasing evokes another response, allow the conversation to continue a few minutes with only the outer-circle person paraphrasing.
- Outer-circle people rotate clockwise three or four places.
- Outer-circle people respond to the same prompt while the inner circle paraphrases.
- Repeat the pattern with another prompt, if desired.

ALTERNATIVES

- If space does not permit one large set of circles, run activity in more than one circle.
- Use this to review or refine other skills, such as pausing or probing for specificity.

cont.

- Use this to explore concepts.
- Use this as a preface to dialogue.

TIPS

- Demonstrate the double-circle configuration with eight participants.
- Use this as an activator before instruction.
- Use this as a refresher before use.

NOTES AND APPLICATIONS
