

Beyond the Icebreaker



Proactive Circles and Student Voice

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Learning Outcomes

- Participants will develop a repertoire of methods for engaging student voice in school climate and culture decisions/change.
- Participants will learn strategies for deepening proactive circles across advisories, home rooms and classrooms.
- Participants will identify a next step for their individual practice related to engaging student voice and/or deepening proactive practice.

Who We Are



Name: Jody Emerson

Current position: Assistant Principal

Careers/Jobs held before U-32:

History Teacher @ Spaulding High School

History Teacher/Para Educator @ Oxbow

Bank Teller @ Wells River Savings Bank

College(s) Attended & Degree(s) earned:

Middlebury College, BA (History/Education)

St. Michael's College, MA (School Leadership)



Name: Scott Harris

Current position: School Counselor

Careers/Jobs held before U-32: Behavior Specialist, Social Studies & Science Teacher, Red Cross Instructor, Pool Maintenance, Farm Manager, and Waiter.

College(s) Attended & Degree(s) earned:

University of Maine, B.S. – Secondary Education. Goddard College, M.A. –

Education. IIRP, M.S. – Restorative Practices (currently).

U-32 Middle & High School

- Montpelier, Vermont (164 acre campus)
- Grades 7-12, 780 students
- Teacher Advisory (TA) System
- All faculty trained in Intro to RP and Circles.
- 80 Students trained in Restorative Practices.
- Public Union High School
(5 sending towns)



Introductions

3-4 word introductions:

- First name?
- State or Country from?
- Role?



Ice Breaker

Turn and talk to someone near you, share a movie or song title that describes an experience you've had in school (or work); explain why you chose that title.

Share out in a non-sequential circle:

What is your favorite ice breaker to use when working with a new group?

Why this session?

**What is Currently Happening in Your
Organization?**

RP @ U-32

- Implemented 5 years ago.
- All faculty trained; part of onboarding new hires.
- TA Reps and student leadership trained.
- Part of teacher evaluation in TA.
- Used proactively and responsively.
- Used in behavioral referrals.



How is student voice heard at U-32?

**What have student responses been
when you have offered these options?**

**What do you do with student groups
when they are ready to move
beyond the ice breaker?**

Restorative Problem Solving

Have a dilemma to share?

Try using a fishbowl!

3 minutes to describe the dilemma

2 minutes for clarifying questions

10 minutes for feedback

2 minutes to reflect and choose something to try



Bridges & Barriers

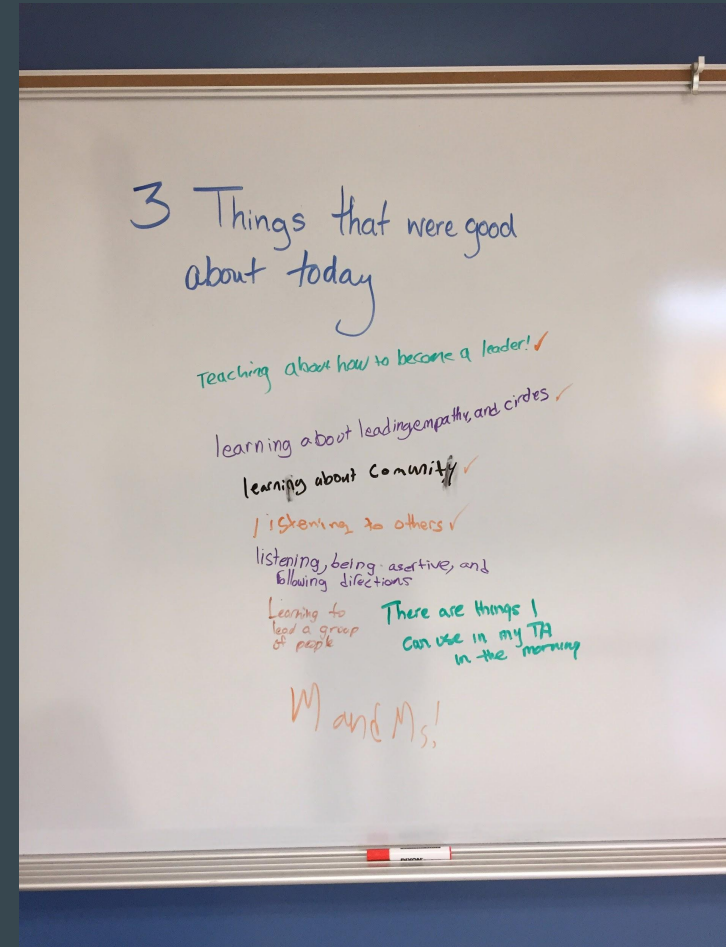
Bridges Barriers Protocol

Purpose: This activity can be used as a way to help a group focus on the importance of perspective and attitude. It also serves as a reminder to participants of the need to build relationships if we are going to create meaningful change. (Recommended for groups of 20 – 50 people) Procedures for the activity: (Approximately 5 - 10 minutes) Materials: Markers and two lunch bags for each participant Each participant is given two lunch sized paper bags. On one side of one bag the participant will write down a word or phrase related to barriers facing education. On the other side of the same bag, the participant will write down a word or phrase related to bridges for success in education. Both bags are opened up. Slip the blank bag inside the bag with the responses. You now have a brick. Participants will build a “wall” out of the bricks. Barriers should all be on one side of the wall, and bridges should be on the other side. There is a brief sharing of the identified barriers and bridges. The wall will remain as a visible reminder of the work the group is doing. For closure at the end of the meeting or activity, participants can choose to knock down the barriers, create windows, or open doors.



Our Next Steps

- Supporting existing student groups.
- Respond to and encourage student requests to take on leadership roles.
- Continue to train faculty, staff, students, and parents in Restorative Practices.



What Steps Will You Take After This?