



4.5 Exploring White Privilege Circle

Suggested Grade Level: Middle and High school

Time: 45 min-1 hour

Subject Area: *Race, Intersectionality, Respect Across Difference*

Overview:

This circle provides a means to explore the meaning of race among those in GSA. The dialog can help introduce new possibilities in understanding the meaning of race.

This activity is adapted from the book “Circle Forward: Building a Restorative School Community” Full citation is listed below.

Goals:

- Learn about how GSA participants view race
- Learn the value GSA participants place on race
- Develop ways to continue learning about race

Materials:

- Talking piece, video “Cracking the Codes: Unconscious Bias” (<https://www.tinyurl.com/GSAunconsciousbias>)

Suggested Follow-up Lessons:

- 1.3 Intersectional Identities Activity
- 4.4 What Difference Does Race Make? Circle
- 4.5 Exploring White Privilege Circle Discussion

Procedure:

Step One:

Organize the room into a circle, placing the talking piece in the center

Step Two:

Welcome people to GSA and let them know that we will be engaging in a circle conversation looking at how race impacts our lives today.

Step Three:

Introduce Rounds – A round is a pass of the talking piece around the circle. The keeper poses a question and, as a participant, usually answers first. The keeper then passes the talking piece to the person to his/her left or right. On the first round, participants are invited to say their name and pronoun as well as respond to the question. Remember it is ok for a participant to pass.

Values Round – Name a value that helps you participate in a good way when you are discussing a topic. Write the values as participants name them and place them in the circle.

Check-In Round *How are you doing today? What is something positive that has happened to you in the last 24 hours?*

Round *What does the term White Privilege mean to you?*

Round *Do you see White Privilege in the world around you? If so, can you tell us where you see it?*

Watch the video “Cracking the Codes: Unconscious Bias”
(<https://www.tinyurl.com/GSAunconsciousbias>)

Round *Is anything in this piece compelling or surprising to you? What gets your attention and why?*

Round *Do you have any additional thoughts about this piece?*

Round *In what ways are straight cisgender privilege and white privilege the same. How are they different?*

Round *What is the most important idea you heard that has come from our conversation or reading?*

Check Out Round What can you take away from this circle today?

Closing Invite everyone to stand and shake their bodies out. Thank them all for participating. Share a final closing thought as they go about their day.