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Circle Planning Guide

1. What is the purpose or goal of your circle? (Example: community building, check-in, problem-solving, curriculum/content . . . etc?)

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1. Circle introduction. (How will you introduce and convey the reason for the circle to the participants? Will you be a participant and circle keeper?)

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1. Establishment of circle agreements. (What are the expectations you wish to establish to guide the circle? Do you have them written on poster board for all to see? Do you need to teach them or are they understood by all participants?)

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1. Introduction of talking piece. (What object are you using and why?)

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1. Check-in. (Optional. What question will you ask if you choose to do a check-in round? Does everyone know each other? Example: On a scale of 1-10, today I’m a \_\_. Can you tie your question to prior knowledge, personal feelings or experience?)

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1. Discussion rounds. (What needs to be addressed in the circle? What questions will you ask? How many rounds might you need to plan to accomplish your goal?)

To consider:

Are the questions you are asking low or high risk?

Do you have a progression of questions that lead you to your outcome?

Does the question directly or indirectly address the purpose of the circle?

What are some potential challenges that may arise? How will

you handle them?

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1. Check out or closing. (Summarize results of the circle, ask a question to bring closure, do a breathing activity, listen to a song or read a poem that relates to the subject circled.) Thank members for their participation.

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