

Formal Conference

Formal Conferences are used to bring people face to face to discuss and work out a problem or conflict. Circle conferences can be requested by school staff, students, family members & support people and community-based organizations. In some cases circles can be used as an alternative to traditional discipline (such as detentions, suspensions and expulsions). A trained facilitator runs the formal conference.

A formal conference is used to discuss:

- Conflicts between students
- Conflicts between students and school staff
- School rule violations
- School success issues (tardies, attitude, grades, motivation)
- Returning from suspension, expulsion, absence, etc.
- Truancy and AODA violations
- Bullying and harassment

A pre-conference meeting is done so that:

- Participation in a conference is **voluntary**
- **Participants** are **honest** and
- they want to **solve the problem**

Formal Conference Questions:

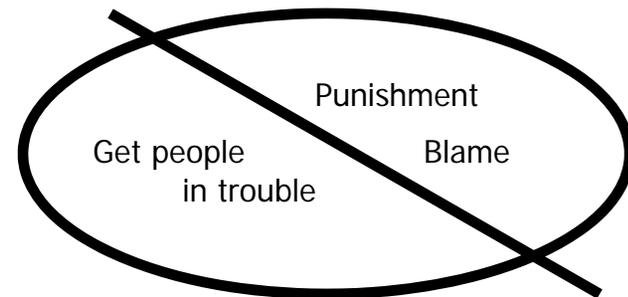
The facilitator follows a script of open-ended questions asked of each and every participant.

- Who is being impacted or affected by the situation (or problem)?
- What are your personal feelings about the situation (or problem)?
- What do you think needs to happen to repair the harm that has been caused (or to solve the problem)?
- What are you personally willing to do to repair the harm that has been caused (or to solve the problem)?

Formal Conferences:

Solve Problems
and
Repair Harm

Formal Conferences Do Not:



Formal Conferences are Confidential

What is said in the conference stays in the conference, unless we decide as a group there is a message that needs to be taken outside of the group.

Sample of Formal Conference Expectations:

- Attentive Listening
- No Put Downs
- Mutual Respect
- Right to Pass

-Tribes TLC© Process-

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Formal Conferences may use a talking piece, only the person with the talking piece can talk
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