

Fishbowl Problem-Solving Circle Small Group Agenda/Script

Set-up: Create an inside and an outside circle.

Inside circle up to 12 chairs – one is empty.

(Note: If the group is small, just set up one circle without a fishbowl.)

- 2:00 – 2:05 Choose a Facilitator and Timekeeper. Ask for a Volunteer to present a problem they are having with a student or a staff member.
- 2:05 – 2:10 Problem Presenter describes the problem they are having. Facilitator keeps this to **5 minutes** maximum.
- 2:10 – 2:15 Facilitator asks if there are any clarifying questions. Do not allow suggestions at this point. Ask the Presenter if s/he wants someone to take notes of the suggestions that are made.
- 2:10-2:20 Facilitator asks Circle members to offer **brief “solution statements” only**. These statements **should not** be in the form of a question, but rather a statement of something to do to solve the problem. **For example: “Talk directly to the person.”**
Not, “Have you talked directly to the person?”
This is not a discussion and the problem presenter shouldn't respond to any of the suggestions. Keep this to **10 minutes**.

***During this phase outside circle members have the option to occupy the empty chair, share a suggestion, and then return to the outside circle.**

2:20 – 2:22 Facilitator asks the Problem Presenter to respond by sharing two of the suggestions that they plan to use (without needing to explain why). (**About 2 minutes**)

Repeat by changing inside and outside circle, and asking for another problem to be presented:

2:30-2:35 Choose new Facilitator, Timekeeper, and Problem Presenter.

2:35-2:40 Present Problem w. clarifying questions

2:40-2:50 Circle Makes Suggestions, remember to use empty chair!

2:50-2:52 Presenter Responds

2:52-3:00 Debrief the Circle Process:

1. What did you like about the process?
2. Is there anything you would change?
3. How would you use this type of circle at school?