

Solution Circle

Jill Skarvold adapted from work by Forrest, Pearpoint et al (1996)

Time required: 20-30 minutes

Number of Participants: 5-9

Roles needed:

Problem Presenter (What's the question?)

Facilitator

Time Keeper

Listeners

Problem Outline/Information/Question (5 minutes)

Problem presenter has 5 minutes to outline the problem and explain information as much as possible. Problem presenter should form the issue into a question. Facilitator makes sure that no one interrupts during the 5 minutes. Time keeper keeps eye on time - carefully!. Listeners LISTEN to all info being presented. The problem presenter has 5 minutes of UNINTERRUPTED time. If 5 minutes not used to present problem, just wait quickly; something may be added by the problem presenter.

Brainstorm (5 minutes)

Listeners chime in with ideas about solutions to what they just heard. It is NOT the time to ask questions of the problem presenter! The facilitator makes sure that listeners are sharing ideas to address the problem and makes sure that all can contribute. The problem presenter LISTENS, without interrupting the brainstorming; no responding to the info during this brainstorm time. This is HARD (for the problem presenter who has to listen only and the listeners who can not ask questions to the problem presenter right now).!

Explore and Clarify (8 minutes)

Now all participants and problem presenter can have a dialogue, led by the problem presenter. This is the time to explore, ask questions and clarify the problem. Focus on the positive points only and not what can't be done or something that is tangent!

First Step (5 minutes)

The problem presenter and group decide on the first steps to take. What's possible? What will be tried soon (preferably within the week). Someone in the group agrees to phone/text/email the problem presenter to see if the problem presenter took the first step and if not, helps address might help move to the first step.

Reflect (2 minutes)

Do a round of words or short phrases to describe the experience. The facilitator records the words/phrases and gives that list to the problem presenter.