

We shall not cease from exploration and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.

T.S. Eliot, Four Quartets

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Reflection as a critical component in experiential learning



(Kolb, 1984)

CIRCLE FRAMEWORK & ELEMENTS

Framework

- Ceremony
- Circle Keeping
- Ground Rules
- Talking Piece
- Questions
- Physical space

Elements

- Sacred space
- Synchronicity & Connectedness
- Core values
- Storytelling
- Holding Paradox
- Light and Shadow
- Collective wisdom

IMPACT OF CIRCLES

Builds community

- Questions power dynamics
- Creates shared responsibility and leadership
- Reveals our current ways of knowing
- Generate new understandings
- Rediscover our core values and connectedness
- Healing
- Space enables an open mind, heart, and will
- Promotes multiple lines of development (spiritual, affective, cognitive, interpersonal, moral)

COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS

- "I felt a connection with everyone's stories and experience."
- "I wish more people knew about it."
- "Very insightful"
- "The stories told made me aware of intolerance in my life. The group felt very open and comfortable and made me reflect."
- "It was beautiful for me to learn how small acts/ words can both negatively/positively affect another."
- "It was a wonderful experience and it provides a safe space for us to have open honest dialogue which is greatly appreciated."
- "We have causes we support and the circle helps us question if we are fully living in congruence with those causes."

TYPES OF CIRCLES

- Broad Community Issues
- Teaching/Learning
- Community building
- Understanding
- Talking

- Healing
- Support
- Conflict
- Reintegration
- Celebration
- Addressing harm

THANK YOU

Justine Darling Restorative Justice Coordinator University of San Diego Justine.darling@gmail.com

Sean Horrigan Director of Student Conduct University of San Diego <u>horrigan@sandiego.edu</u> @S_horrigan

Natalie Zanzucchi M.A. Peace & Justice student University of San Diego <u>promotepeace@gmail.com</u>