



The Network for Peace through Dialogue

The guidelines for a Talking Circle are:

- ∞ It is done in a complete circle.
- ∞ A stick is passed around in a clockwise direction.
- ∞ Only the person holding the stick talks.
- ∞ A person talks until they are finished, being respectful of the time.
- ∞ The circle talk is complete when everyone has had the opportunity to speak.
- ∞ A person may pass the stick without speaking, if they so wish.
- ∞ If desired, the stick may be passed around again.
- ∞ What is said in the circle stays in the circle.
- ∞ A circle is used to discuss issues of importance.

2) Quotation from Black Elk on Circles:

You have noticed that everything an Indian does is in a circle, and that is because the Power of the World always works in circles, and everything tries to be round. In the old days when we were a strong and happy people, all our power came to us from the sacred hoop of the nation, and so long as the hoop was unbroken, the people flourished. The flowering tree was the living center of the hoop, and the circle of the four quarters nourished it. The east gave peace and light, the south gave warmth, the west gave rain, and the north with its cold and mighty wind gave strength and endurance. This knowledge came to us from the outer world with our religion. Everything the power of the world does is done in a circle. The sky is round, and I have heard that the earth is round like a ball, and so are all the stars. The wind, in its greatest power, whirls. Birds make their nests in circles, for theirs is the same religion as ours. The sun comes forth and goes down again in a circle. The moon does the same, and both are round. Even the seasons form a great circle in their changing, and always come back again to where they were. The life of a man is a circle from childhood to childhood, and so it is in everything where power moves"

-Black Elk

Source: Brown, J. (1988). The spiritual legacy of the American Indian. New York: Crossroad Publishing.