



7 Students, 7 Teachers

Inside-Outside Circle Activity



Purpose: *Through improvised role play, participants will gain insight into the challenges facing adolescents enrolled in a traditional, public middle school. These students are asked to move between, typically, seven different classrooms that vary in expectations, processes and systems, making it inordinately challenging to manage the transitions and perform successfully.*

Facilitator Process:

- 3 minutes for group set-up and 3 minutes for activity
- Distribute the “student” and “teacher” cards to a group of participants. Make sure there are an EQUAL number of “teachers” and “students” in each group (up to 7 for both). Extra group members will take notes on what they observed/heard.
- Have the “teachers” stand in a circle facing outward while the “students” form a circle around them facing inward.
- Exchange begins with the “student” expressing the need or making the request on their card and the teacher responding in a manner that aligns with their cards.
- Facilitator provides 10-15 seconds (max 3 minutes for activity) for each exchange and calls “that’s the bell” at the end of each timed segment. When “that’s the bell” is announced, the “students” step to their right, keeping their card with them and immediately attempt to express the same need or make the same request to the next teacher on the inside circle. The teachers on the inside circle do not move.

<p style="text-align: center;">TEACHER CARD 1</p> <p>MS. GREEN'S CLASSROOM: <i>Will not reason through any situation. Only points to complex, self-designed rules and guidelines.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">STUDENT CARD 1</p> <p>The bell just rang for 2nd period to begin, but you have to go to the restroom REALLY bad.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">TEACHER CARD 2</p> <p>MRS. GOLD'S CLASSROOM: <i>Works on an incentive system where tickets are earned through rewards—everything costs tickets.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">STUDENT CARD 2</p> <p>You were unable to complete the homework assignment because you didn't understand the questions or what to do.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">TEACHER CARD 3</p> <p>MS. GRAY'S CLASSROOM: <i>Teacher is friends with every student, has no rules and is inconsistent with procedures, systems and consequences.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">STUDENT CARD 3</p> <p>You failed the most recent Unit Assessment and would like the opportunity to re-take and improve your grade.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">TEACHER CARD 4</p> <p>MRS. RED'S CLASSROOM: <i>Writes more office discipline referrals than any other teacher on campus. Sees herself as a teacher of content and nothing else.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">STUDENT CARD 4</p> <p>The bell just rang and you are expected to be working already but you don't have a pen or pencil.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">TEACHER CARD 5</p> <p>MR. YELLOW'S CLASSROOM: <i>STUDENTS ARE AFRAID...he is known to have a temper—often raises voice and has little tolerance for anything silly.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">STUDENT CARD 5</p> <p>You received graded assignment back with a grade of 60 but no other comments. You would like more feedback on what you missed or still don't understand.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">TEACHER CARD 6</p> <p>MS. WHITE'S CLASSROOM: <i>Long term substitute teacher...is never sure of what is going on or what should be happening—always surprised by assemblies, events, etc.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">STUDENT CARD 6</p> <p>Your mom yelled at you this morning and you are trying to avoid talking to anyone or looking anyone in the eye because you are still upset. You want to go to the nurse.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">TEACHER CARD 7</p> <p>MS. ORANGE'S CLASSROOM: Builds relationships with students and has consistent classroom systems that are clearly communicated to all.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">STUDENT CARD 7</p> <p>The teacher is showing power point slides and talking. Your assignment is to take notes during the slide show. You are wondering what to write down.</p>