

## **Seminar #1-Summer Memory**

### **1. Opening (How will you open this circle? A poem, quote, song, breathing, story, etc.)**

Play “Welcome Back” song clip by Mace (found in seminar resources) while you help students get into circle.

### **2. Guidelines and Values (What questions will you ask to create shared guidelines & values?)**

Introduce the purpose of the circle--community circle.

The circle process provides a way of bringing people together in which:

- Everyone is respected and gets a chance to talk without interruption
- Participants explain themselves by telling their stories
- Everyone is equal- no person is more important than anyone else
- Emotional aspects of individual experiences are welcome

Discuss Circle Guidelines. Invite the class to add any other guidelines if they wish.

Set the values for the community. Ask students to share the values they think will be important to honor during circle and seminar.

Values are a reminder for how to ‘be’ in Circle. Respect, honesty, trustworthiness, courage, are examples of such values.

### **3. Talking Piece (What objects are you using and why?)**

Bring a meaningful item from your summer and explain it’s significance. Let students know that they can share or pass when the talking piece gets to them.

### **4. Check In (How will you invite participants to describe how they are feeling?)**

Describe one experience from your summer that you would like to share, either positive or negative.

### **5. Closing**

We are going to end our circle here today. Tomorrow we will come together in the circle and do the whole process.

## **Seminar #2-Teacher**

### **1. Opening (How will you open this circle? A poem, quote, song, breathing, story, etc.)**

We are meeting in the circle to get to know each other better and build a stronger community. To open today's circle I would like to share a poem.  
"If I Could Teach You, Teacher" poem

### **2. Guidelines and Values (What questions will you ask to create shared guidelines & values?)**

Review the shared guidelines and values.

### **3. Talking Piece (What objects are you using and why?)**

Bring a meaningful item from your summer and explain it's significance. Remind students that they can share or pass when the talking piece gets to them.

### **4. Check In (How will you invite participants to describe how they are feeling?)**

What is the name of your favorite elementary school teacher?

### **5. Discussion Round (What needs to be addressed in circle? What questions will you ask?)**

What is your favorite characteristic of a teacher? Give examples if necessary.

### **6. Check Out (How will you ask participants how they are feeling at the end of circle?)**

Name a color that represents how you feel right now.

### **7. Closing (How will you close the circle?)**

To close our circle today we are going to take three deep breaths. Take a deep breath in through your nose and breath out through your mouth slowly. (Repeat two more times.)

## **If I Could Teach You, Teacher**

If I could teach you, teacher,  
I'd teach you how much more  
you have accomplished  
than you think you have.  
I'd show you the seeds  
you planted years ago  
that are now coming into bloom.  
I'd reveal to you the young minds  
that have expanded under your care,  
the hearts that are serving others  
because they had you as a role model.

If I could teach you, teacher,  
I'd show you the positive effect  
you have had on me and my life.

Your homework is  
to know your value to the world,  
to acknowledge it, to believe it.

Thank you, teacher.

*By Joanna Fuchs*