



### Talking Circle Process for a Virtual Environment – Template

What follows is a summary of the talking circle process at the Fall 2020 UW ADVANCE Leadership Workshop. The workshop was held virtually, thus the talking circles took place via Zoom breakout rooms. The information below was provided to the circle keepers by **Drs. Jabali Stewart and Keiko Ozeki of Huayruro** ([www.wearehuayruro.com](http://www.wearehuayruro.com)). Included below are the opening and closing readings, information about talking pieces, circle guidelines, and reflection questions.

#### <Preparation>

Once everyone has joined the breakout room, provide the **Circle Order** in the chat. The circle order lists circle participants and indicates to whom to pass the talking piece.

#### 1. Opening Reading

“You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.” — Buckminster Fuller

2. **Explain talking piece** - Talking piece is a two-way invitation. An invitation to speak when you are holding it, and an invitation to listen when you are not.
3. **Go over guidelines** - Read them aloud and put them in the chat. Remind people it is ok to pass.
  - i. Be fully present.
  - ii. Speak from the “I” perspective, speak your truth.
  - iii. Be self-responsive and self-challenging, keep your mind open.
  - iv. Listen, listen, listen and process.
  - v. Take responsibility for your words and recognize the validity of all perspectives.
  - vi. Lean into discomfort, take risks, be patient, make some mistakes, then let go
  - vii. Be comfortable with silence.
  - viii. Be crisp; say what is core.
  - ix. Accept conflict and its resolution as a necessary catalyst for learning.
  - x. Treat the candidness of others as a gift; honor confidentiality.
4. **Check-in** - Who are you, where are you in the University? How does this reading land with you? Do any thoughts come to mind at this moment?
5. **Round 1** - What of the now do you want to pull through in post-pandemic times? What lessons can you bring forward for yourself?
6. **Round 2+** - The keeper can flexibly ask a question based on the flow of the circle. Do more rounds as time permits. The keeper can use check-out question for additional rounds.
7. **Check-out** - What are you taking away with you? How was this for you? Plans for Break? What is one word to describe how you are right now?



8. **Closing Reading**

When Someone Deeply Listens to You

When someone deeply listens to you

it is like holding out a dented cup

you've had since childhood

and watching it fill up with

cold, fresh water.

When it balances on top of the brim,

you are understood.

When it overflows and touches your skin,

You are loved.

When someone deeply listens to you,

the room where you stay

starts a new life

and the place where you wrote

your first poem

begins to glow in your mind's eye.

It is as if gold has been discovered!

When someone deeply listens to you,

your bare feet are on the earth

and a beloved land that seemed distant

is now at home within you.

— by John Fox

More information about Circle Processes can be obtained by contacting Huayruro ([info@wearehuayruro.com](mailto:info@wearehuayruro.com)) or reading *The Little Book of Circle Processes* by Kay Pranis.