

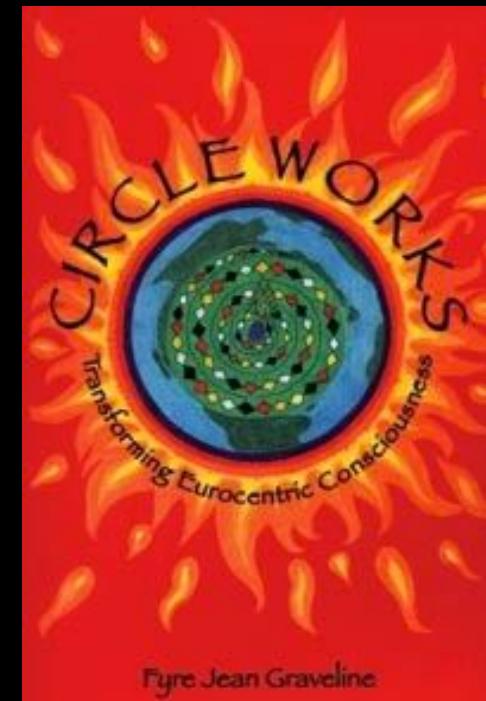
USING TALKING CIRCLES IN ONLINE ENVIRONMENTS

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What is a talking circle?

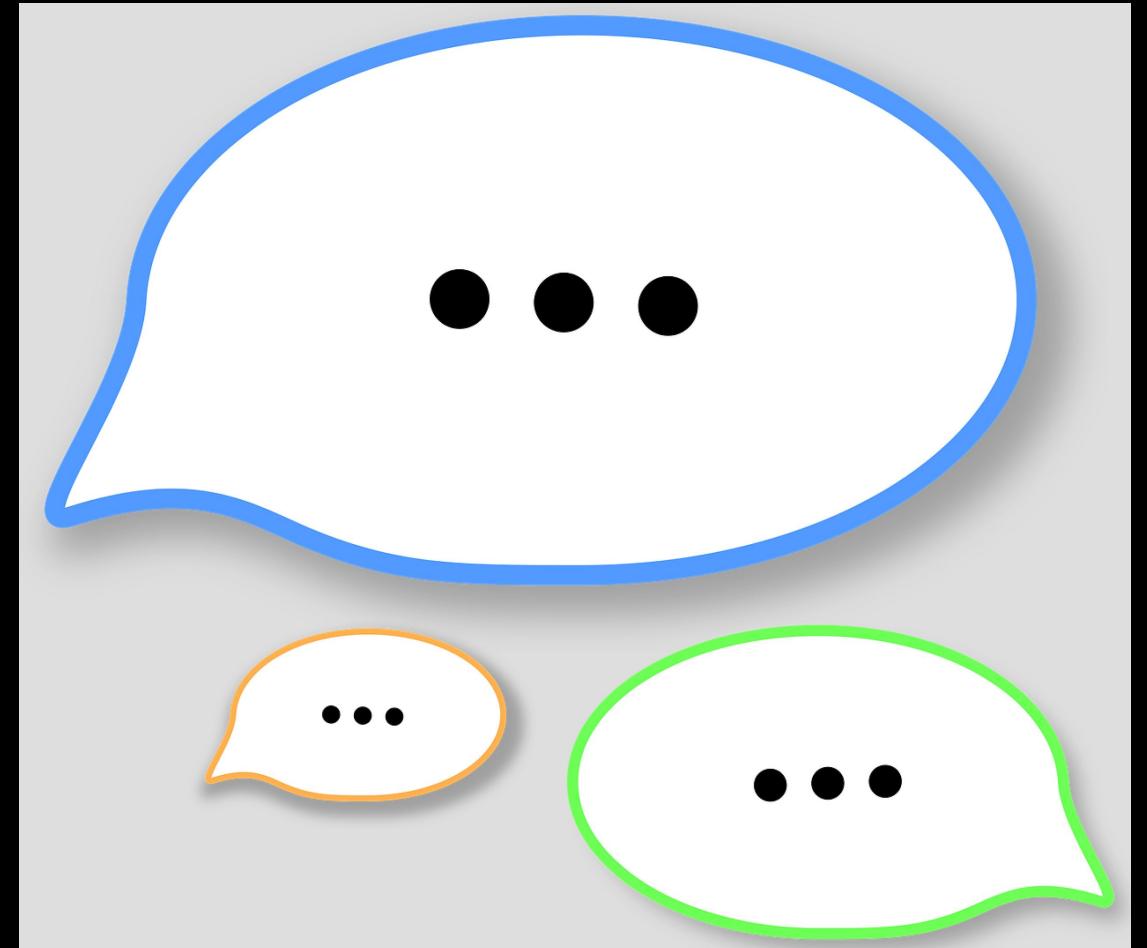
- Arising from Indigenous Knowledges
- Distinction between sacred sharing circles and talking circles
- Tensions and risk of appropriation

For more, see Graveline, F. J. (1998). *Circle works: Transforming Eurocentric consciousness*. Fernwood.



Why are talking circles effective now?

- Predominance of online education in COVID-19 era
- Wise practices in online education: way to organize synchronous sessions
- Important for students to hear diverse perspectives from peers and instructor
- Formative assessment



Following protocols

- Important to learn practices and protocols from the territory where you are teaching, e.g.:
 - Each person has a chance to talk
 - No interrupting

Image Source: *Talking Circles*. First Nations Pedagogy Online
<https://firstnationspedagogy.ca/circletalks.html>

CIRCLE TALKS

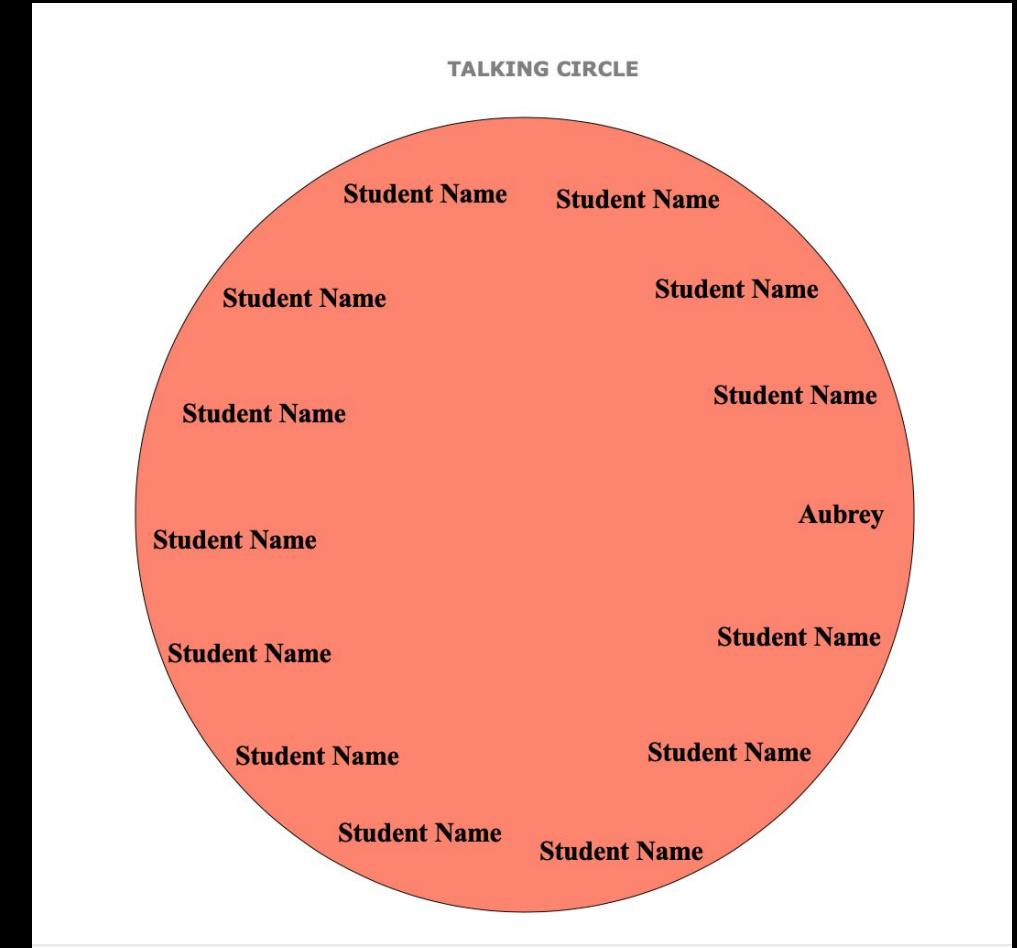
In its simplest form a circle talk:

- is done in a complete circle
- only the person holding the stick talks, all the rest listen
- the stick is passed around in a clockwise direction
- a person talks until they are finished, being respectful of time
- the circle talk is complete when everyone has had a chance 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
- is extremely respectful of everyone as individuals and what they have to say.



Why are talking circles beneficial?

- TQS in Alberta requires educators to develop and apply foundational knowledge about First Nations, Métis and Inuit
- A way into Indigenous pedagogies and knowledge systems
- Wholeness, everyone belongs in class community, diverse perspectives coming together
- Reflective activity enhance student's feelings of interconnectedness



Online Talking Circle Demonstration

Could we please have 4 volunteers to participate in a sample Talking Circle?

- Please type your name in the chat
- We will ask you why you might use a Talking Circle in your online teaching
- Sample Circle

References

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Questions & Discussion

Maarsii, merci, thank you!