

BRAVE SPACE

A brave space is an intentional environment where people can choose to engage in challenging dialogues with courage and empathy. This could be a classroom, a community event, a public library, or a meeting. In these spaces, people can step out of their comfort zone to learn from each other's perspectives and address critical issues impacting their lives.

How would you explain what a brave space is to someone? Write your definition below:

How does a brave space look, feel, or sound to you? Describe it in words or draw a picture:

CREATE A BRAVE SPACE WITH A GROUP

Where do you want to create a brave space? Why?

I will make a brave space at

because _____.

Whom do you want to invite to this brave space?

What topics, issues, or experiences would you like to discuss with others in this brave space?

Pick up a **Community Agreements card** to help as you create a Brave Space.

COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS

Community agreements are the norms, principles, and values chosen by a group to set the tone and intention of a space. These agreements may change over time, should be agreed on by everyone and can clarify what safety means for the group, how to resolve conflict, and what expectations are held in common to support participation in activities.

How would you explain what community agreements are to someone? Write your definition below:

Consider the following questions:

What do you need to feel included and valued in a group? What do you need to do your best work?

What are some community agreements that you can think of? Write three of them here:

CREATE COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS WITH A GROUP

Step 1 - How and when would you use community agreements? For what group?

Step 2 - Invite the group to brainstorm what agreements they need to ensure everyone feels included and valued.

Step 3 - Create a list, discuss, and vote on the top five agreements for the group. The group can also decide to have more agreements, if needed.

Step 4 - Wrap up this activity by agreeing and making a commitment as a team to take on these actions. Make sure the agreements are written out and visible to the whole group whenever you gather together.



Pick up a **Story Circles card** to learn how your Community Agreements can help a group learn from each other's stories.

STORY CIRCLES

A story circle invites a group of people to sit in a circle and share stories and reflections about their experiences on a given topic or theme. Story circles can allow groups to build community, explore social issues, practice empathetic listening, and gain a sense of purpose.

HOW TO FACILITATE A STORY CIRCLE

Step 1 - Start a Story Circle

- Invite a group of people to sit in a circle, create community agreements, and introduce a topic or theme for the story circle.
- Choose an object that can be used to indicate who has the power to speak in the story circle. This will help the group focus on one person at a time.

Step 2 - Share Stories

- Start by passing around the object and asking each person to say their names and pronouns.
- Then, pose a question or prompt to the group, and emphasize that the circle is for sharing stories.
- Take moments to be silent, when needed.

Step 3 - Reflect on the Experience

- Conclude the story circle by having each person share one to three words to summarize their experience.

LEAD A STORY CIRCLE ABOUT “WE THE FUTURE”

Step 1 - List the issues, topics, themes, leaders, and stories in this exhibit that you were inspired by and want to continue exploring.

Step 2 - Pick one and write a short reflection about your experience in this exhibit.

Step 3 - Use your reflection as the opening introduction to a story circle. Then, create a story prompt or question to invite the group to share their experiences and their own reflections.



Pick up the **Community Agreements** and **Brave Space** cards to help you prepare to facilitate a Story Circle.