

Relationship & Community Building Virtual Circle

About 8-10 people Total time: 50 minutes

Purpose: (1) check-in with each other (2) create time and space to reflect on the concept of “Brave Spaces.”

Welcome & Mindful Moment: invite people to place their feet on the ground and take one intentional deep breath together.

Review Guidelines:

Usual norms (for example):

- Speak from the heart
- Honor confidentiality
- It's okay to pass
- Respect the talking piece
- Witness others' sharing without interjecting or responding

Online norms:

- Find a private comfortable space
- It's okay to turn off your video
- Be fully present. Please do not multitask (check email, text, Snapchat, web surf, etc.)
- Maintain confidentiality (i.e., screenshots, pictures, online posts about what was said)

Opening Reading:

AN INVITATION TO BRAVE SPACE

*Together we will create brave space
Because there is no such thing as a “safe space”
We exist in the real world
We all carry scars and we have all caused wounds.
In this space
We seek to turn down the volume of the outside world,
We amplify voices that fight to be heard elsewhere,
We call each other to more truth and love
We have the right to start somewhere and continue to grow.
We have the responsibility to examine what we think we know.
We will not be perfect.
This space will not be perfect.
It will not always be what we wish it to be
But
It will be our brave space together,
and
We will work on it side by side.*

by Micky ScottBey Jones



[Brave Space vs Safe Space](#)

Establish a talking order

Method A: The facilitator types the talking order into the chat. For each round, use the same order but start with someone different.

Method B: For the first check-in round, invite anyone who is ready to start the circle; ask the person who goes first to call on someone to go next. Repeat. Then the order can be typed into the chat.

The facilitator may need to remind people whose turn it is for the first couple rounds. Remind people it is okay to pass.

Re-read the quote

Round 1: When you heard this read, what came up for you?

Round 2: What is your vision for a “Brave Space”?

Round 3: What can you do to create the conditions for “Brave Spaces” for your team/students/school/community? Who is at the table? Who is missing?

Closing Round:

Pause for 30 seconds of silence to notice responses. In this round, you are invited to simply state what you noticed.

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

James Baldwin