

Goals

- Talking directly about disability and inclusion
- Creating more inclusive school communities
- Building relationships between schools
- Amplifying student voices

Norms

- This is a safe space. We hope that everyone feels safe to share their true thoughts and feelings.
- Aim to be respectful with your language. Assume good intentions from others.
- If you take space, then make space. Participate yourself and leave room for others.
- Conversation should amplify student voices. Staff are welcome to highlight or respond to student comments.
- You can unmute yourself to speak or raise your hand when you'd like to jump in. You can also type thoughts in the chat. Video is always optional.
- Deeply listen to one another.
- Understand that we are all unique and have had different experiences.
- Does everyone agree and does anyone have anything to add?

Inclusion Prompts

- When I think of disability, I think of...
- How is language about disability used positively and negatively?
- What has shaped your understanding of disability?
- Where have you seen exclusion in your life?
- Should schools teach students about different disabilities or should students learn from the inclusion of students with disabilities? For example, if there is a student who uses a wheelchair and technology to speak, should there be a day to teach the other students about why the student is unable to talk and uses a wheelchair or should students learn naturally?
- Is disability history and the disability rights movement taught in your school? If not, should it be? Why or why not?
- How is disability portrayed on TV or in movies? Is it good or bad? Has it changed over time? What are some recent examples that you know about?

Ableism Prompts

- What is ableism? What are some examples?
- Have you observed or experienced ableism? How did it make you feel?
- What are some reasons why ableism is bad?
- What are some things you can do or say when you see or experience ableism?
- Is your school doing any work now that connects to ending ableism?

Sample Agenda

- Welcome and overview (2 minutes)
- Go over goals, norms, and prompts (3 minutes)

- Introduce students and schools (5 minutes)
- Whole group discussion or breakout rooms (45 minutes)
- Closing, thank you, and next steps (5 minutes)

Next Steps

- Do you have any lingering thoughts or questions after today's talking circle?
- How could you take these conversations and ideas back to your school?
- How can we act as student leaders for diversity, equity, and inclusion?
- See how other NYC students responded to these questions and add your perspective on [Padlet 1](#) and [Padlet 2](#).

Facilitator Tips

- Focus on creating a safe space for student comfortability
- Share your screen or drop things in the chat so students can read in addition to listen
- You don't have to use all the prompts; pick and choose based on your students and time
- Summarize what you're hearing
- Occasionally add a new or different point
- As needed, reframe questions, give examples, or pose follow up questions
- Move to the next question depending on time and student interest
- Allow the conversation space to go where it goes
- Look for hands raised, messages in chat, and notes on [Padlet 1](#) and [Padlet 2](#).

Contact InclusionSummit@schools.nyc.gov for support