

Choice and Flexibility

using Padlet during Circle Work

Circle Work

Goal: build community, connections, relationships and share knowledge

- **Relationality** – building strong relationships between students and educators
- **Decolonization** – using the physical space to position the educator as part of the learning community (removes hierarch of power) and to encourage all participants to share their knowledge
- **Witnessing** – being present in the moment and “listening to listen, not listening to respond”
- **Anti-racism** – provides opportunities for historically silenced students to share
- **Time** – creating space to learn from one another

Roberts, 2024

Circle Work

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“Circles allow for the students to feel the connection to each other and the synergy from this collective energy. This connection centres and ground the relationships we have with each other...building a community that knows each other and feels comfortable with talking to each other allows space for the students to flourish.”

Roberts, 2024 (*Re-Storying Educational Practice*)



Closing Circle

- On the last day of an in-person class, we engaged in circle work to witness each others' learning – everyone in the learning community was invited to share:
 - Something they learned from the course**AND/OR**
 - A message for the learning community (of gratitude, piece of wisdom, wish or hope)
- I invited students to share in any way that was meaningful to them – spoken word, written word, song, dance, art, etc.
- I included a Padlet Discussion Board as an option for sharing in the circle

Sarah Yvonne Skinner • 1h



Closing Circle

Post your response to the discussion topic by clicking the plus button below.



I did not have permission to share the board from my class – this is an example I made of responses to the question “what is a collaborative learning community?” that represent examples of how students participated


Padlet

Sarah Yvonne Skinner • 1m

What is a collaborative learning community?

Post your response to the discussion topic by clicking the plus button below.

Sarah Yvonne Skinner /teacher/ less than a minute ago




Broken Social Scene is one of my favourite bands...the band is made up of artists from different groups. This band makes me think of collaboration because

0 0

+ Add comment

Sarah Yvonne Skinner /teacher/ less than a minute ago




I created this image with co-pilot, using the following prompt: "can you create an image of a collaborative learning community using the following words as a guide: diverse perspectives; everyone is a valued, contributing learner; knowledge is socially constructed among all members, including the teacher; participation looks different for everyone, but all participation is valued equally"

0 0

+ Add comment

Sarah Yvonne Skinner /teacher/ less than a minute ago



comfortspringstation.com

All I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten

0 0

+ Add comment

Sarah Yvonne Skinner /teacher/ less than a minute ago

A collaborative learning community is a space where I feel confident and supported.

0 0

+ Add comment

Picture of a band that represents a collaborative learning community

Image created with Co-pilot

Link to a poem that represents a collaborative learning community

Written response

Reflection

- I decided to use Padlet as part of our closing circle to provide flexibility and choice in how students participated in the circle work
- What struck me is how creative students were with how they chose to participate – other examples included a song and dance and an original song
- It also struck me with how engaged students were and the joy and energy that was in the classroom; I wondered if was, in part, because students were able to choose a meaningful way to participate in circle work

References

Roberts, C. (2024). *Re-storying education: Decolonizing your practice using a critical lens*. Page Two Books, Inc.