

## APPENDIX G

### The Story Circle

This is the most important part of the process. I would say that this is one step that cannot be done offline, as in out of the classroom. The power of sharing one's personal story and hearing what others can tell you about it cannot be duplicated alone or online. You need the power of the group.

### **Story Circle Ground Rules**

#### FOR THE STUDENTS:

1. Confidentiality: What is said in the room stays in the room.
2. Be respectful. Everyone's story is valid.
3. Cell phones to be turned off and put away in another part of the room during story circle.
4. Deep and challenging emotions may come up. Tears are okay and don't need to be apologized for. (Have Kleenex available.)
5. Silence is okay. If someone is struggling with what to say, don't make him or her feel rushed.
6. Ten minutes per student. There will be a timekeeper.
7. To keep us moving along, use "jazz hands" if you like and agree with something the storyteller is expressing, rather than stopping and saying something.

#### FOR FACILITATORS:

1. Present Ground Rules
2. Ask if they are ready to tell their story.
3. Allow a pause following Storyteller's presentation.
4. Thank the Storyteller for sharing.
5. Wait until the Storyteller is done before asking questions or making comments.
6. Ask the Storyteller if there is anything they would like specific feedback about.
7. Share an appreciative comment first. Preface suggestion statements with: "If it were my story, I would..."
8. If others have made a similar comment, please refrain from repeating.
9. Allow for other students to comment
10. Manage queue, allow storyteller to respond to a comment before the next comment is shared.
11. Synthesize group feedback for storyteller before moving on to next person.

### END OF WORKSHOP TIPS

Have "gratitude circles" - where everyone picks a name out of a hat and says a "real" gratitude for who that person was during the workshop.

Make time for the individual to talk about their process before their story is shown and also for group discussion after their story is shown. And do a group picture too.

be in a circle of sorts when you screen the stories (usually a U-shape) - never as a class facing forward. A few people in the circle need to turn their chairs forward, but they always come back to looking at each other after each story is shown.

The leader in the field of digital storytelling workshops is the Center for Digital Storytelling. Their mission statement: *We create spaces for transforming lives and communities, through the acts of listening to and sharing stories. Since 1993, we have partnered with organizations around the world on projects in Storywork, digital storytelling, and other forms of digital media production. Our selection of public workshops supports individuals in creating and sharing stories.*

For more information: <http://www.storycenter.org/about/>