



## Move or stay? Circle self-assessment

Adolescents assess their circle strength and decide if they are ready to move to another activity phase.



3/5



3/5



2/5



10 min



### Activity Overview

#### Purpose

Assess whether adolescents should stay in their current phase or move to another level.

#### Objectives

Adolescents will be able to:

- ▶ Assess circle strength.
- ▶ Practice collective decision making.

#### Competency domains

Critical thinking and decision making; Leadership and Influence; Cooperation and Teamwork.

#### Works well for

Circles that may be ready to move to a new phase -- This could include circles that are ready to take on a new challenge, or circles that want to repeat activities that they found helpful or enjoyable in previous phases.

Circles that can sit together and hold a simple discussion as a group (If they aren't ready to sit and talk together, they probably aren't ready to move to a new phase!).

#### Phase

Starting Our Circle.

#### Before

Adolescents should have held at least five sessions in their current phase.

Use this tool if Circles might be ready to move to a new phase. This could include circles that are ready to take on a new challenge, or circles that want to repeat activities that they found helpful or enjoyable in previous phases. Use this activity with: **Strong Circles** guidance, the **Circle self-assessment** tool, and the **Circle strength symbols** tool.

#### After

Adolescents should move to another phase, or continue in their current phase. Adolescents can use the results of their self-assessment (of both their learning and feelings) to carry out the **Reviewing progress toward group goals** activity.

#### Preparation

None needed.



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1

Ask adolescents to sit in a circle. Post the **Circle self-assessment** tool on a marker board or flip chart.

2

Read through the assessment questions one by one. Ask adolescents to choose the answer that best describes their circle. Indicate which of the four circle strength levels they choose by making check marks or other notes.

**Alternative strategy:** If you can make copies of the **Circle self-assessment** tool or project an image of the tool that everyone can see, adolescents can do the self-assessment in small groups.

3

When they have finished answering all of the questions, look at the assessment scores and notes on the board or flip chart.

4

### Discuss:

- ▶ Are there things we should take more time to do and practice as a circle, so that we get stronger? If so, should we stay in this cycle, or go back to another phase that will help us?
- ▶ Are we ready to move to a new, more challenging phase?
- ▶ Are we interested in trying something new? Are we enjoying what we are doing right now? Or, would we like to do more of something we have done before in an earlier phase?

5

Reach a decision together about whether to stay in the current phase or move to a new phase (and if moving on, to which one).



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### Do & Don't

- ✓ Let adolescents assess their own progress - Encourage them to be reflective and honest in their assessment.
- ✓ Make your own assessment of their progress (informally or formally), and encourage them to make a decision to stay or to move that will work for them.
- ✓ Remind adolescents that this is not an assessment of whether they are good or bad as a circle - The goal is to find activities that work well for them, and that they will enjoy.
- ✓ Consider dividing the circle into smaller groups if there are groups with very different interests.
- ✓ Force adolescents to assess their knowledge of the topic or their mood if they don't feel like doing so.
- ✗ Force adolescents to stay or to move if they don't want to.
- ✗ Allow one or a few adolescents to dominate the decision about whether the circle stays or moves.

### Adaptation

**For younger adolescents:** Encourage them to work within phases that are simpler, such as the Starting Our Circle and Knowing Ourselves.

### Environment

Indoor or outdoor space.

### Supplies

- ▶ Marker board.
- ▶ Marker.
- ▶ Paper or notebook for writing personal ideas and thoughts (optional).
- ▶ Flip chart paper or a poster board.

### Improvise

Adolescents can use their own criteria to discuss their "circle strength" as they decide whether to stay in the same phase or move to a new one.

### Continue

Keep in mind that adolescents can repeat a phase as many times as they want before moving on. They can also go back and repeat a phase that they have done before.



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