

DuTalk Circles Guide

Description

DuTalk Circles are adapted from the Study Circle approach. A Study Circle encourages open, honest dialogue on a shared topic. In the course of the conversation participants learn skills in civil discourse. Study circles also create an opportunity for a group of people to take action and through joint action, to promote social change. This approach to social change is based on the idea that when all kinds of people develop trust and relationships through face-to-face dialogue, new ideas and approaches emerge. In other words, when people consider different points of view on a complex issue, they uncover common ground and find betters solutions.

DuTalk Circle Process

- 1. In the first session, the group works together to construct a <u>working definition of the problem</u> by exploring their <u>personal experiences</u> with the issue and by examining many points of view on the topic, particularly focusing on <u>issues and causes at the societal level.</u>
- 2. The second session asks participants to <u>consider strategies for action and change</u>; in other words, to <u>generate potential solutions</u> for the issues and causes.
- 3. In the third session, group members select the best solution, identify barriers to the implementation of that solution, develop an implementation plan for that solution and determine how they want to communicate their solution to the rest of the study circle participants.
- 4. Finally, all participants meet at an <u>Action Forum</u> at which each study circle presents its definition of the problem, its solution and Plan for Action to the larger group; the entire body then determines whether or not it wishes to choose one (or more) of the Action Plans for implementation.

For more information on Study Circles:

Visit www.Everyday-Democracy.org.