

Literacy Circle Roles

Literacy circle is an anti-oppression teaching strategy used to build equity in to a group learning process by distributing the responsibility for learning and engaging across everyone in the group. This is best used for groups of 5 to 10 people wanting to review a video, article, poem as an example. Each person can volunteer or be assigned one of the following roles with the expectation that ALL will read or view the item being discussed. The number of roles can be adjusted down if there are not enough people in the group. Alternatively, two or more people can take on a role if there are more than enough. Depending on instructions, the debrief of the different roles may occur after your allotted time in the large group setting so don't worry about setting aside time for debriefing within your time space.

The Facilitator	Helps ensure that everyone on the group is participating, contributing, engaging and accomplishes some or all of its learning goals
The Summarizer	Provides a summary of the discussion via art, words, oral or some other communication form
The Word Finder	Finds words they did not understand and finds the definitions
The Connector	Finds a passage or excerpt from the piece that has special relevance or connection to their journey
The Dreamer	Articulates through various means (for example, art, image, memes, words, writing, social media post) what you hope the article will challenge or inspire others to do
The Observer	Notices the relationships and dynamics of the exchange of ideas and shares this with others during the debrief in a constructive manner

Adapted from Paolo Freire's anti-oppression work, and further adapted by Victoria Gardner, Ed.D. for educational purposes 9/1/2020.