EDTE 203--Gipe

Professional Literature Circles

**Purposes:**

- making personal/professional connections between readings and current practices, experiences, or observations
- interpretation/constructing meaning
- new insights or implications for professional practice
- involvement

Conduct expected during literature circles:

1. **Asking questions**
2. **Listening actively to others**
3. **Responding thoughtfully to others**
4. **Providing elaborations or explanations**
5. **Stating the main idea or supporting details**
6. **Using the text/article to support ideas and opinions**
7. **Making personal connections to real life experiences**
8. **Making connections to other books, articles, theories**
9. **Reflecting on the reading by setting new goals, sharing implications for practice, or suggesting new ways of doing things**
10. **Writing down highlights to be shared during whole class share**

**Roles/Responsibilities in Professional Literature Circle (in addition to job sheets involving each group member):**

**Facilitator** (this role should be rotated with each literature circle):

- ensures that all members participate and have an equal opportunity to voice their thoughts.
- maintains her/his own enthusiasm and keeps up a lively pace.
- ensures that the group stays on track.

**Spokesperson** (this role should be rotated with each literature circle):

- keeps anecdotal records of above behaviors to discuss with the group in order to share the group’s consensus during whole class share.
- summarizes observations for the members of the literature circle at the end of discussion, prior to whole class share.
Everyone in the circle (best sizes are from 4 to 6 students):

1. **Empathetic and Reflective Listening**: The process of entering fully into another person's contributions or feelings; to put yourself into the other person's shoes. The act of listening to another person is a good way to show that you value that person. You not only hear the other person's ideas, but you also hear the emotions behind them. To communicate your understanding of another person's meaning.

2. **Clarifying**: Asking questions to understand each other and the information being studied better.

3. **Debriefing/Self-Reflection**: To share observations about the literature circle experience. To consider what has been done well, and to make decisions about what needs to be improved. To think over possible strategies and to set goals.

   **Sample Debriefing Form**

   Name __________________________________  Date __________________

   How much did you participate in the discussion today?
   
   about the right amount too much not at all too little

   What was an important contribution you made to the discussion?
   
   _______________________________________________________________

   What was an important idea expressed by someone else in the group during the discussion? (Identify the person and tell what s/he said.)
   
   _______________________________________________________________

   What group strategies did your group use well? What strategies did you struggle with? (participating, staying on topic, contributing appropriate information, encouraging others to contribute, listening carefully, making good eye contact, being considerate of others' opinions, asking for clarification, summarizing, using appropriate voice levels)
   
   _______________________________________________________________

   Suggestions/comments/goals for next literature circle discussion?
   
   _______________________________________________________________

**Prompts for Follow-up Responses in Learning Log:**

   What was your reaction? Why?
   Do you like the reading? Why or why not?
   What will you take from this reading? What might you do differently as a result of reading/discussing this material?

Literature Circle Debriefing

Name ___________________________   Date ________________

How much did you participate in the discussion today?

about the right amount   too much   not at all   too little

What was an important contribution you made to the discussion?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

What was an important idea expressed by someone else in the group during the discussion? (Identify the person and tell what s/he said.)

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

What group strategies did your group use well? What strategies did you struggle with? (participating, staying on topic, contributing appropriate information, encouraging others to contribute, listening carefully, making good eye contact, being considerate of others' opinions, asking for clarification, summarizing, using appropriate voice levels)

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Suggestions/comments/goals for next literature circle discussion?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Ballot for Professional Literature Study

Name ___________________________ Date __________________

1st Choice: ____________________________________________________________

2nd Choice: ____________________________________________________________

3rd Choice: ____________________________________________________________
**Facilitator**

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