

# SHOW, TELL & ASK

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## OBJECTIVE

Participants will build relationships and practice asking open-ended questions.

## MATERIALS

Zoom or another video chat program. A visual with the order of the circle established that can be shared at the beginning of the activity. See attached template for an example.

## INSTRUCTIONS

Before the activity begins, the facilitator should establish the order of the circle and make a visual. Gather the names of the participants and write them in a circle formation. Have this visual saved on your computer so that it can be shared through the “screen share” function on your video call at the beginning of the activity. (Low-tech version: use a dark ink marker to draw the layout of the circle with participant's names on a piece of paper and hold it up in front of your webcam.) This will allow all participants to know the order of the circle as they play the game. The facilitator may need to give a verbal reminder of who is next prior to each person's turn.

This activity harkens back to our elementary school Show and Tell circles and invites participants to share a part of their home with the other participants.

The facilitator opens the activity by sharing the ground rules.

### Ground Rules:

- Please speak and listen with respect and share time fairly.
- Respect everyone's privacy. Only tell your own story and do not share what you hear outside the circle.
- During this activity, you will be sharing areas or items in your homes. Please be respectful of other people who may be in your home and their needs.
- Are there any additional ground rules we would like to add in order for this to feel like a safe space to share?
- Does everyone agree to these ground rules? (Wait for a nod, a thumbs up, or some other form of agreement from participants.)

The facilitator then asks the “original circle question” that all participants will respond to. You can select from these three options, or make additional modifications based on the comfort level of your group.

**Possible original circle questions:**

- What is an area or a thing in your home that tells a story about you? Share a few sentences about its significance.
- What is an area or a thing in your home that bring you comfort? In 2-3 sentences, tell us why this item or area brings you comfort.
- What is something in your home that helps the group get to know you better? Tell us briefly about what it means to you.

You can either bring something in front of your webcam, or, if you’re feeling adventurous, carry your webcam with you to an area of your home.

The first person to the right of the facilitator in the circle (according to the visual shared at the beginning of the activity) then responds to the question by showing the group an area or a thing in their home and explaining its significance. It is just like Show and Tell!

Note: Circle participants may need to walk through their home to get to the area or thing they want to show the group. This can be a fun and humorous moment as you catch glimpses of pets, children, siblings, etc. However, participants can also turn off their video while they walk if that will help increase safety.

After the first person shows their area or item and describes its significance, the person to the right of them in the circle then asks one follow-up question about what they have shared.

**Guidelines for the Follow-Up Question:**

- Question must be open-ended
- Must have a spirit of enthusiastic curiosity
- Question must show you sincerely care
- Question must help us all get to know the person better

The original speaker then responds to the follow-up question. After they respond, the person who just asked a follow-up question (the second person in the circle) then responds to the original circle question by showing the group an area or a thing in their home and explaining its significance. The person to their right in the circle then asks them a follow-up question.

The game continues in this way until everyone has both responded to the original circle question by showing and telling about an area or an object in their home and has also asked someone else a follow-up question.

## DEBRIEF

What is something that you heard in someone else's story that you can relate to? What resonated for you? What was it like for you to show an item or an area of your home to others?

## LESSON

Making connections is extremely important, particularly in times of hardship and stress. Realize that each one of us has the ability to get creative in finding ways to connect with others, even from afar.

## ADDITIONAL TIPS

If your group is new to circle practice, or prone to talking over each other in screen-based interactions, the facilitator needs to take a more active role. The facilitator may need to speak after each turn is complete. For example, after the speaker has answered the follow-up question, the facilitator could say, "Thank you for sharing. Next, Abby will be doing the Show and Tell, and Sam will ask the follow-up question." At this point in the game, your goal is to add structure and keep everyone on task. Do not add any commentary or questions about what participants have shared.

If you are using Zoom, encourage everyone to click on "Gallery View" instead of "Speaker View" so all participants are visible on the screen.

## ADVANCED VERSION

If you would like to make this game more challenging, try adding these additional rules.

- The person asking the follow-up question listens to the original speaker's response then makes a reflective statement and asks a second follow-up question.
- You can also use this online adaptation model to play the game Shovel Face, which goes deeper by asking an original question that invites more vulnerability and by requiring participants to ask multiple follow-up questions. This activity should only be done in a group that already has a high degree of trust established. You can find instructions for the game Shovel Face here: <https://restorativeteachingtools.com/building-skills/>

## EXAMPLE CIRCLE VISUAL

