

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CELEBRITY

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OBJECTIVE

Participants will deepen their understanding of key restorative justice values and terms. They will practice moving beyond simply saying restorative words to really explore their meaning together in a fun and light-hearted way. This will surface creativity and difference, which supports each participant to develop their relationship to the terms and their meanings.

MATERIALS

A list of words associated with restorative justice (see examples below and add your own!), each written on a separate piece of paper, and a large bowl.

INSTRUCTIONS

This activity is a restorative justice twist on the game Celebrity, also referred to as Fishbowl.

Start by writing words associated with restorative justice on individual small pieces of paper. You can either provide the words yourself as the game facilitator or ask the participants to each come up with 3-5 words. Fold each paper in half so that the word isn't visible. Put all the slips of paper with the words on them in a large bowl and mix them up.

Examples of words associated with restorative justice that you may want to use for the game include:

- Healing
- Reconciliation
- Harm
- Respect
- Reintegration
- Repair
- Interconnectedness
- Community
- Connection
- Needs
- Feelings
- Relationship
- Choice
- Responsibility
- Forgiveness
- Inclusion
- Equity
- Equality
- Shame
- Strengths
- Dignity
- Intersectionality
- Understanding
- Support
- Listening
- Voice

Divide the group into two teams of equal size. Choose a team to go first. One player from that team picks a word from the bowl and begins giving clues to their teammates to try to get them to guess the word. When a team guesses correctly, they get a point, and the clue-giver draws a new word. The clue-giver can pass on a word by returning it to the bowl. The clue-giver has 60 seconds to get their team to guess as many words as possible. After time is up, it is the other team's turn. The clue-giver rotates each time so that all players get a turn to give clues.

Round 1: Any verbal clues are allowed, as long as they don't contain any part of the word (this round is like the game Taboo). This is the only rule until all the words in the bowl have been guessed. Then, return all the words to the bowl and proceed to Round 2.

Round 2: No talking allowed! The clue-giver picks a word from the bowl, but this time they must act out the word to get their teammates to guess it. (This round is like the game Charades.) Once all words have been guessed, return them all to the bowl and proceed to Round 3.

Round 3: The clue-giver can only say one word to get their teammates to guess the word.

The team with the most points at the end of all three rounds wins!

DEBRIEF

How did your understanding of these words and values associated with restorative justice shift through this activity? What surprised you?

LESSON

The words we use hold power. They can be used to connect or to exclude, especially when we assume that everyone interprets them similarly. We can gain important perspective on our language and its impacts by exploring meaning in connection with others.

Acknowledgement:

This activity was developed in community with participants from our 2025 Restorative Teaching Tools Training during a Zoom call following the retreat. The initial inspiration was an activity called Jargon Taboo developed by our amazing co-facilitator Erica Lee.