

Evidence, Part 1

- Welcome
 - *As people enter the space, welcome them. Invite them to do what they need in order to be fully present for the next hour to ninety minutes that they will be together.*
- Body Centering
 - *Have folks close their eyes if they feel comfortable. Lead the group in four deep breaths. As folks inhale, have them imagine a cool, calm blue filling every corner of their bodies. As they exhale, have them imagine gathering up all the red (stress/tense) energy in their bodies and blowing it out.*
- Introductions/Check-In - *Invite participants to introduce themselves. The circle keeper may decide to call on each person individually, choose to start with one person and ask them to pick the person who goes next, or provide a speaking order in the chat or on the screen.*
 - Each person share your name, pronouns and a color that represents how you are feeling today.
- Quote - *Read the following quote as grounding:*
 - “The search for truth takes you where the evidence leads you, even if, at first, you don’t want to go there.” - Bart Ehrman
- Circle Purpose - *Share that the community is gathered today to discuss the idea of proof, since proving someone did something is at the core of all criminal trials.*
- Values - *Share the image of the “Common Circle Values from Living Justice Press. (see p. 17 of this toolkit). Ask participants:*
 - Pick one value that is important to you and share how you will try to live into this value during circle.
- Group Agreements - *Share the image of the Common Circle Guidelines from Living Justice Press (see p. 18 of this toolkit). Ask participants:*
 - Do we feel good about using these guidelines? Any that we want to add or change?
 - Review the discussion of handling harm, bringing joy, and taking care of one another, developed during the Community Building circle.

Evidence, Part 2

- Sharing Perspectives - On proof/knowing. *Ask participants to answer:*
 - **Round 1:** Are there times when “the truth” feels obvious? And other times when it doesn’t?
 - **Round 2:** Can you think of a time when you heard two different versions of an event and you had to decide which was true? How did you decide?
 - **Round 3:** Can you always explain why you believe something to someone else?
 - **Round 4:** Can you think of a time when you changed your mind about something you had been pretty sure about? What made you change your mind?
 - **Round 5:** Are there particular types of information that you trust more than others? (ex: hearing someone tell a story, seeing physical subjects, pictures or videos)
 - **Round 6:** How do your values and life experience influence what you believe to be true?
- Closing Quote - *Read the following quote:*
 - A society based on the letter of the law and never reaching any higher fails to take advantage of the full range of human possibilities. The letter of the law is too cold and formal to have a beneficial influence on society. Whenever the tissue of life is woven of legalistic relationships, this creates an atmosphere of spiritual mediocrity that paralyzes people’s noblest influences.
- Alexander Solzhenitsyn
- Closing Breaths - *Invite participants to take three breaths together to close.*