

Impressions & Arguments, 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 and take four deep breaths together, breathing in through the nose and exhaling out through the mouth.*
- 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 your relationship to Saturday mornings as a child.*
- Quote - *Read the following poem as grounding:*

First Impressions by Peggy Woods

First impressions are not always the best,
Finer distinctions are formed from the rest.

First impressions, often prejudiced and rude,
Given more time are mellowed and soothed.

With time comes understanding, interest, even love,
And who, being in haste, would forgo the above?

- Circle Purpose - *The purpose for today's circle is to continue to wrestle with concepts like truth, fairness, accountability, and justice. In addition, it is an opportunity to discuss the ideas of impressions and arguments.*
- 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.*

Impressions & Arguments, Part 2

- 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?
- Sharing Perspectives -. *Ask participants to answer:*
 - Round 1: Recalling times when you fell short in excellence. Share a story of a time you made a 'bad' first impression. What did that feel like?
 - Round 2: In your opinion, are first impressions valuable in relationships? Why or why not?
 - Round 3: Reflecting on times of disagreement. What is your relationship with arguing (verbally or in writing) with others?
 - Round 4: Contextualizing the concepts of impressions and ability to make arguments within a 'justice system' setting, of what value is it to seek justice without whole truth?
- Closing Quote - *Read the following quote:*
 - I always cheer up immensely if an attack is particularly wounding because I think, well, if they attack one personally, it means they have not a single political argument left. - Margaret Thatcher
- Closing - *Ask participants to answer:*
 - What do you think Margaret Thatcher meant in this quote? What might it mean for our community during the trial?
 - What are three words that describe how you're feeling leaving this circle?
- Closing Breaths - *Invite participants to take three breaths together to close.*