WHAT IS AN ANECDOTE CIRCLE?
An exercise that involves the use of story themes and story-eliciting questioning to engage a group in sharing their experiences.

ANECDOTE CIRCLE MAY BE ORGANIZED
» around themes using anecdote-eliciting questions.
» for settings with a group of 4 to 12 participants
  › often the participants are peers.
  › often the participants have worked on the same project.
» with participants sitting in a circle or at a round table.
» with a facilitator experienced in
  › anecdote-eliciting questioning techniques.
  › blending with the group.

USE IT TO
» support process change such as
  › team and relationship building.
  › conflict resolution.
» collect stories to evaluate complex projects.
» enable knowledge sharing.

HOW TO USE IT
» Consider recording what is being said during the anecdote circle. This way you can harvest stories from the transcript.
» Make sure that you engage a facilitator who is experienced in guiding and not leading. The group members should be sharing with each other, not telling their stories to the facilitator.

ANECDOTE CIRCLES VS FOCUS GROUPS
Anecdote circles differ from focus groups in the following ways:
» Thematic – eliciting experiences rather than opinions
» Exploratory – exploring themes rather than having a hypothesis in mind
» Neutral – the results emerge as experiences are shared rather than expecting to identify a correct answer.