



ANECDOTE CIRCLE

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.

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.

USE IT TO

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

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.