

# Can we talk?

*Facilitating dialogues with gifted students*



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**Let's Talk Volunteers.**  
**I need 8 people who are:**

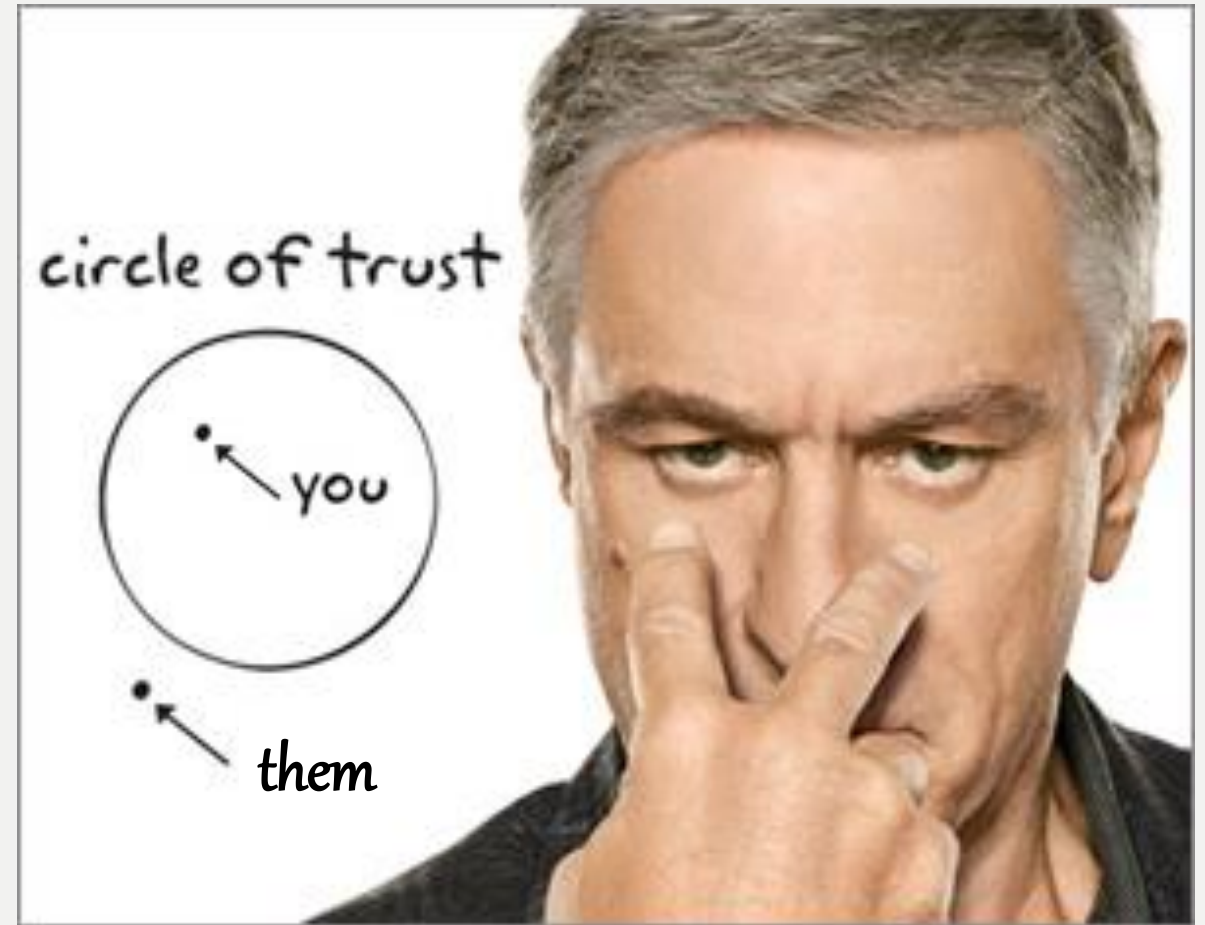
A. Willing to talk

B. Willing to listen

C. Willing to do A and B at the same time

# Inside the Circle

- Put your name on your “table tent”
- Put a small, simple symbol of something that you love to do when you’re not working
- Feel free to talk softly and/or introduce yourself to others near you in the circle while Jennifer speaks to those Outside the Circle



# Outside the circle

*Here are some things to look for:*



- How does the facilitator:
  - *establish group trust?*
  - *keep the group focused?*
  - *keep her role as facilitator and not move into “teacher” role?*
- What preparations were needed on the part of the facilitator to hold this dialogue?
- What topics arise during the discussion that might make for good discussion topics in future dialogues?
- What skills are present in the dialogue participants?
- What skills might the facilitator work on with dialogue participants in the future?

# The Dialogue Activity

- Introductions and Rules of Engagement
- “Hook” activity
- Invitation to share out
- Recap and next steps for The Dialogue Group
- Closing The Circle

# Let's Talk

- How did the facilitator:
  - *establish group trust?*
  - *keep the group focused?*
  - *keep her role as facilitator and not move into “teacher” role?*
- What preparations were needed on the part of the facilitator to hold this dialogue?
- What topics arose during the discussion that might make for good discussion topics in future dialogues?
- What skills were present in the dialogue participants?
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# The Essential Guide to Talking With Gifted Teens

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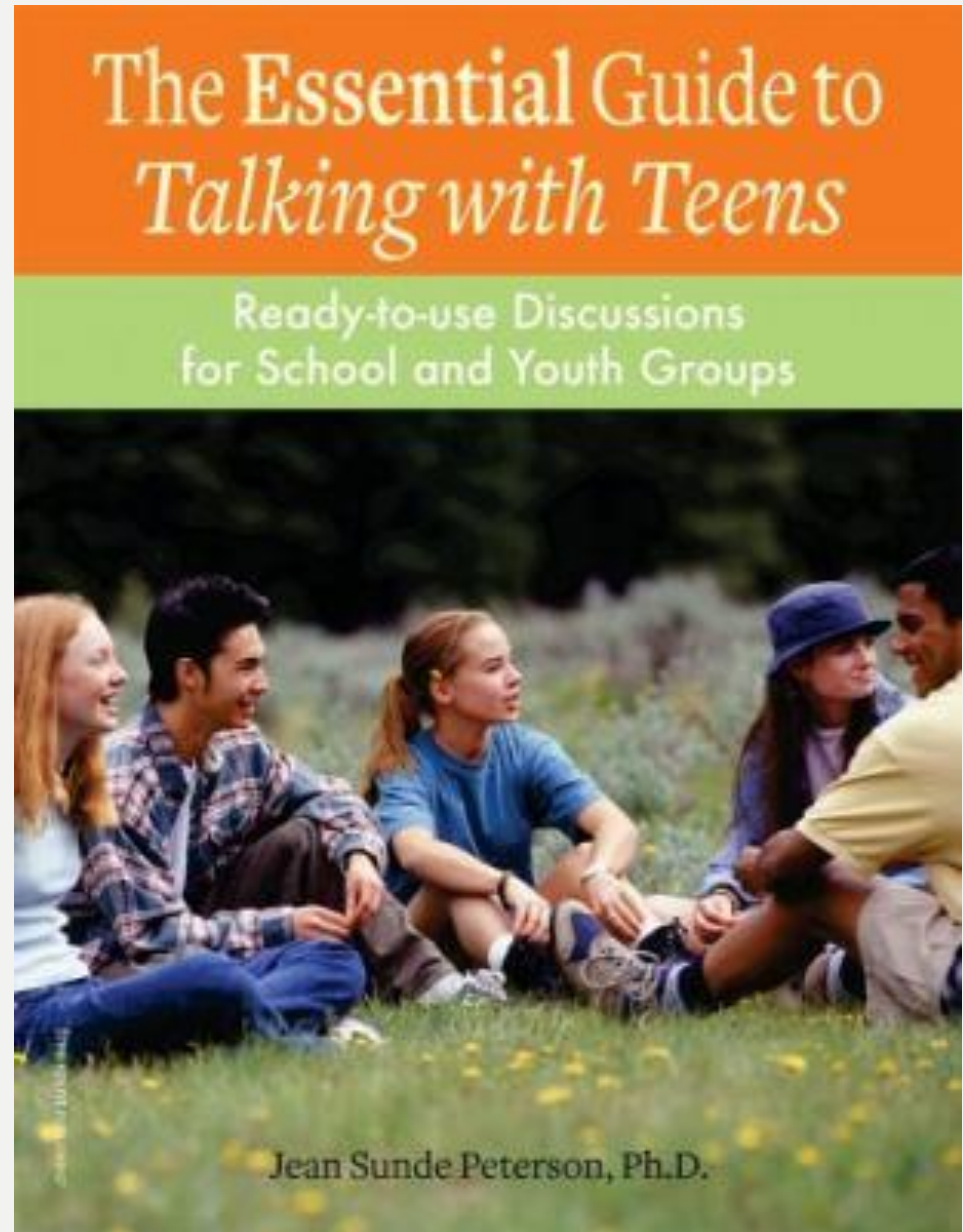
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Dr. Peterson also has:



*I'm  
not  
just  
gifted*

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# Let's Talk: Considerations

- Choosing students
- Scheduling – a time, a place, and frequency
- Asking or notifying students, parents
- Gaining permission
- Choosing topics
- Choosing a space
- Your role as Facilitator
- The role of your School Counselor
- Starting out and Rules of Engagement
- Ending the group meetings

Let's Talk Topics.

What are some topics of interest to you?

What are some topics your gifted students  
need?

# *Themes and Topics*

*Peterson*

- Identity
- Stress
- Relationships
- Feelings
- Family
- The Future

*Fonseca*

- So I'm Gifted – What Does That Mean?
- Don't Forget About Emotional Intelligence
- Daily Habits for Successful Living
- The Art of Bouncing Back
- Cultivating your Talents and Passions

# Dr. Peterson's General Guidelines

- We learn how to facilitate a group by doing it. You may want to do some research on listening and responding strategies.
- You do not have to be an expert on all topics.
- Relax and be flexible about the direction of the discussion.
- Be willing to model how to do an activity or how to respond, but only to facilitate replies – too much sharing by the facilitator can actually inhibit responses.
- Enter their world respectfully.
- Check in periodically with group members about how they are feeling about the group.
- Incorporate student suggestions.
- Anything can be processed in the group. That means group members can discuss honestly what just happened – in the present.
- Resist the urge to teach. Be one of the learners.

# My thoughts on dialogues

- Put something in the center of the circle to focus on and “talk” to.
- Always start with simple rules of engagement. Always end the session with some sort of closure.
- Insist on confidentiality.
- Never allow anyone to talk someone who is not present.
- Work toward getting everyone to contribute without making it an issue
- Be sure about controversial subjects – or simply don’t discuss them. If you get in over your head, be honest:
  - *“I think this is a good conversation to include the counselor on,”*
  - *redirect “let’s go back to..” (an earlier point)*
  - *or speak to individuals afterward about talking to the counselor.*

Can We Talk A Little More?

How else could you use dialogues in your current school situation?

Questions? Comments?



# Circle of Trust

