



# Working Circles Reference Card

## Why?

SOCIAL ENTRAINMENT is one of the three main goals of Narrative Training (along with learning the ABT tools and beginning to develop narrative intuition).

Narrative structure has to be developed with a group (not by yourself alone at your desk).

This is what a WORKING CIRCLE provides — five people working together, pushing, probing, prodding the ABT of one member of the group in the search for its ideal form.

## What You Will Need...



1 HOST



1 ABT



2-4 PARTICIPANTS



30 MINUTES

## The Process

- 1 INTRODUCTION - The HOST and PARTICIPANTS go around and say name and field-of-study and/or profession
- 2 The HOST reads their ABT. **OPTIONAL:** *The HOST provides **BRIEF** background for their ABT to provide additional context for the PARTICIPANTS*
- 3 For the remainder of the 30 MINUTES, the HOST and PARTICIPANTS follow the Working Circle STEPS (see back).

At no point should you advance to the next step ***before*** finishing the current step.

# Working Circle Steps

For each section, HOST calls on each **PARTICIPANT** to complete the section.  
**HOST** picks 1 WINNER.

**DO NOT ADVANCE to the next section BEFORE COMPLETING the prior section.**

The Story in 3 Words or Less

This is a story of \_\_\_\_\_.

The Problem in 5 Words or Less

The **PROBLEM** is \_\_\_\_\_.

The Set-up

**[BROAD TOPIC]** is essential/important/good for \_\_\_\_\_.

The Goal

IF \_\_\_\_\_, THEN \_\_\_\_\_.

The intent here is to establish the potential **POSITIVE OUTCOMES** of completing your **GOAL**.  
“**IF** we do the thing we want to do, **THEN** here are all the **GOOD THINGS** that will result.”

The Conversational ABT

\_\_\_\_\_, **BUT** \_\_\_\_\_, **THEREFORE** \_\_\_\_\_.

The **cABT [Conversational ABT]** should be your **ABT** boiled down to the most basic, **NON-SPECIFIC** level.  
Replace specific nouns and terms with words like “thing” or “stuff.”

Your cABTs should be no more detailed than the examples below:

**Example 1:** There's a **GOOD THING** to do, **BUT** we're not doing it, **THEREFORE** we're going to do it.

**Example 2:** We have a **GOOD THING**, **BUT** it's not working well, **THEREFORE** we're going to fix it.

The Dobzhansky

Nothing in \_\_\_\_\_ makes sense except in the light of \_\_\_\_\_.

**PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER:** REWRITE YOUR ABT using the sections above.

[BROAD TOPIC] is essential/important/good for \_\_\_\_\_ AND IF \_\_\_\_\_, THEN \_\_\_\_\_

BUT The **PROBLEM** is \_\_\_\_\_ BECAUSE [insert why],  
THEREFORE we will fix this BY [insert actions].