

The Iowa Civil Rights Commission Conducts



What is a Study Circle?

A study circle:

- is a process for small group deliberation that is voluntary and participatory;
- is a small group, usually 8 to 12 participants;
- is led by a facilitator who is impartial, who helps manage the deliberation process, but is not an “expert” or “teacher” in the traditional sense;
- considers many perspectives, rather than advocating a particular point of view;
- uses ground rules to set the tone for a respectful, productive discussion;
- is rooted in dialogue and deliberation, not debate;
- has multiple sessions which move from personal experience of the issue, to considering multiple viewpoints, to strategies for action;
- does not require consensus, but uncovers areas of agreement and common concern;
- provides an opportunity for citizens to work together to improve their community.

While “Facing the Challenge of Racism and Race Relations” remains the most popular Study Circles/Honest Conversation topic, other topics include:

- Immigration
- Education in our Communities
- Balancing Justice
- Youth Issues
- Diversity
- Violence in Our Communities
- Sexual Harassment
- Smart Talk for Growing Communities
- Neighborhood Issues
- Police/Community Relations

For more information, contact;
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Study Circles/ Honest Conversations



On Race and Other Subjects

